

44th ALEC Annual Meeting

JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO

JULY 19-21

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:
June 6, 2017

HOUSING CUT-OFF:
June 26, 2017

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LEC Annual Meeting Updates

Workshop Topics Announced for Annual Meeting

Click below for the full topic descriptions

- The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety

- Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions
- Why the Nation Needs YOU to Drain the Swamp With the Ultimate Tool of Federalism: 4 Perspectives on Article V
- Prescription Drug Abuse: A Collective Approach to Policy Solutions Is Essential
- Beyond the Headlines: The Data and Trends You Need to Know about School Choice
- The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives

EW: Featured Report

State of the States 2017

Nathan Williams | Joel Griffith | Elliot Young | Christine Smith

State of the States

State of the States

An Analysis of the 2017 Governors' Addresses

NEW REPORT: Released yesterday, by the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform includes State of the State or other policy addresses delivered by 50 governors across America. These speeches included numerous economic policy proposals that will affect the states' economic competitiveness. This report observes and analyzes the economic policy proposals discussed in each governor's State of the State address. Click here to find out more.



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Expert Insight

Secretary Zinke Shouldn't Stop With Bears Ears

Nathan Stein | Task Force Director, Energy, Environment and Agriculture | Environmental Stewardship



Read the Full Article

On Monday, the Department of Interior announced the interim recommendation of its review process of the Bears Ears National Monument. Secretary Zinke recommended substantially shrinking the monument, noting "designating a monument that—including state land—encompasses almost 1.5 million acres where multiple-use management is hindered or prohibited is not the best use of the land and is not in accordance with the intention of the Antiquities Act." He couldn't be more correct. Click here to find out why.



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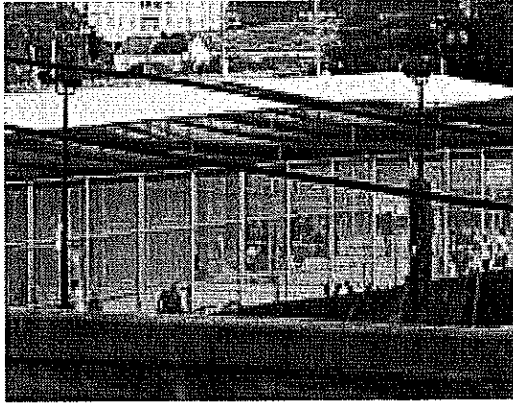


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Expert Opinion

The Importance of Creating Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Opportunities for Inmates

John Smith | Criminal Justice Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

The ALEC Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform offers expert insight into the importance of offering the opportunity of rehabilitation to inmates so they can become functioning members of society. [Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

LEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Gail Griffin | AZ-14



Senator Gail Griffin is serving her seventh year in the Arizona State Senate representing the 14th District and her third year as Majority Whip. Outside of her work in the legislature, Sen. Griffin is a Real Estate Broker at Sierra Vista Realty where she has worked for over 40 years. [Click here for the full bio.](#)



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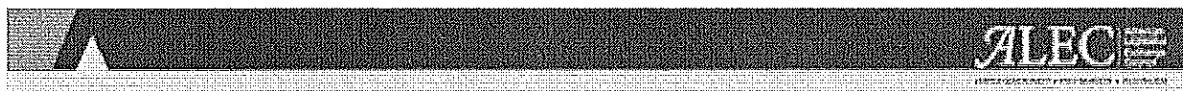
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Dear Kirk,

Thank you for being a member of the Task Force on Communications and Technology.

As the Annual Meeting nears, please make sure to take a look at the task force materials below! Included on our task force's webpage are draft agendas for the subcommittees and the task force meeting, as well as a list of the model policies for task force consideration. I look forward to seeing you in Denver, as we discuss a wide range of state-based solutions for some of today's biggest policy topics and hear from a wide range of policy experts.

Sunsetting Policy for Review

- Neutrality and Integrity in Software Procurement Act
- Electronic Government Services Act
- Online Bidding Act
- Resolution Supporting Pro Consumer Public Policy for Voice, Video and Data Services

[Click Here for the Agenda](#)

[Review the Full List of Model Policies](#)

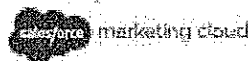
See you in Denver!

Jonathan Hauenschild
Task Force Director
Communications and Technology
jhauenschild@alec.org

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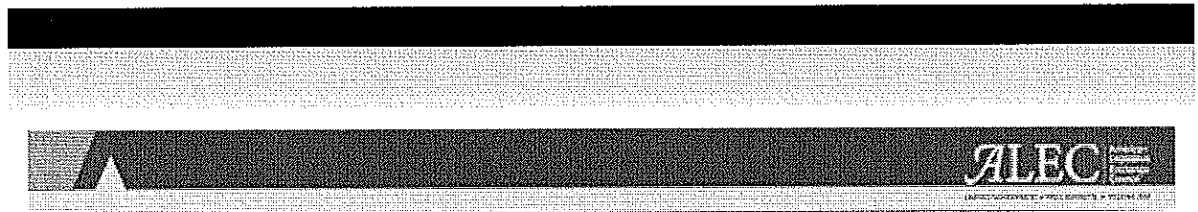
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The 2017 ALEC Annual Meeting is Around the Corner!

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Workshop Topics Announced

for Annual Meeting...

- The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety
- Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions
- Why the Nation Needs YOU to Drain the Swamp With the Ultimate Tool of Federalism: 4 Perspectives on Article V
- Prescription Drug Abuse: A Collective Approach to Policy Solutions Is Essential
- Beyond the Headlines: The Data and Trends You Need to Know about School Choice
- The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives

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Need to make a hotel reservation? You still have time!

Book your room today at the Hyatt Regency in Denver before our room block ends on June 26. We are offering a discounted rate of \$205 per night. Thank you if you have already made a reservation!

Book Now

Room Block Ends June 26



[Questions? Send us an Email](#)

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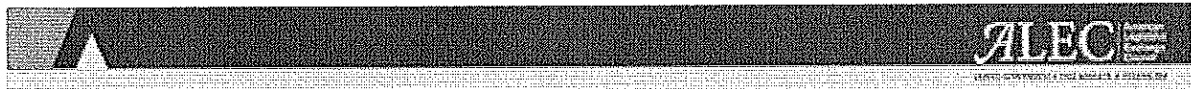
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The banner features a black and white silhouette of the Denver skyline. On the left, a large black rectangle contains the text '44th ALEC Annual Meeting' in white, with 'JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO' below it. On the right, the text '2017 JULY 19 - 21' is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text 'DENVER, COLORADO' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, a black button with white text reads 'Click Here to Register Today'.

Dear Kirk,

As the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting begins to kick off in full gear, make sure to take a look at the task force materials below to stay ahead of the curve! Included on each Task Force webpage are draft agendas for the subcommittees, working groups and the task force meeting, as well as the model policies in line for task force consideration.

- Civil Justice
- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Federalism & International Relations
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment & Ag.
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

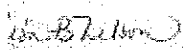
[Click Here for the Full List of Model Policies](#)

While you are busy making plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out some time for a quick, **20 - minute CARE demonstration**. If your Task Force meeting is on **Thursday**, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday timeslots. If your Task force meeting falls on **Friday**, drop by during the Thursday line-up. Click below for the full schedule.

[ALEC CARE Demo Schedule](#)

Look forward to seeing you this July, as we discuss a wide range of state-based solutions for some of today's biggest policy topics and hear from a wide range of policy experts.

See you in Denver!



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Subject: You're Invited: ALEC State Leadership Academy July 17!

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Dear Kirk,

= AWe all tackle hard-hitting issues in our respective states and while one size does not fit all, why not come together, collaborate and develop winning policy solutions, tailored to the individual needs of our states?

I hope you will join me and other legislators from states across the country for an invitation-only academy, designed exclusively for Speakers of the House, Senate Presidents and Caucus and Committee Chairmen.

Don't miss out on this jam-packed event, featuring TV and radio personalities, leading policy experts and valuable opportunities for us to network with leaders in neighboring and regional state legislatures and even gain insight from our counterparts across the country.

This Leadership Academy will be held July 17-18 at the Hyatt Regency Denver in conjunction with the American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting. To RSVP, please contact Spencer Chretien at schretien@alec.org or (571) 482-5013.

ALEC will cover two nights hotel and reimburse up to \$500 in airfare.

Click here for a copy of the agenda.

Sincerely,


Speaker Linda Upmeyer, Iowa

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Center for Innovation and Technology - June
20, 2017



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ALEC Annual Meeting Updates

If you are busy making plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out some time for a quick, 20 - minute CARE demonstration. If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday timeslots. If your Task force

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ALEC CARE Demo Schedule

A Letter From the Desk of Bartlett Cleland

Innovation Heats Up! and You Can Be Part of It

the many promises of innovation, no promise likely rises higher than the opportunity to live longer, healthier and more active lives. While advances in entertainment and consumer electronics tend to catch our attention and seem to improve some aspects of our lives almost immediately, advances in health care can often seem remote and harder to grasp. But now and then an advance comes along that is completely obvious in its benefit.

Smoking remains one of the leading preventable causes of death in the U.S. and around the world, for that matter. For years, various products have been on the market to help those who do smoke to kick the habit, but the results have been mixed at best. The fact is approximately 40 million Americans still smoke. That is nearly one out of eight Americans. America needs better options.

As reported by the Royal College of Physicians last year, commenting on what is widely accepted, "Most of the harm caused by smoking arises not from nicotine but from other components of tobacco smoke." This follows the Health and Human Services report that diseases from smoking are directly linked to long term exposure to the toxicants from combustible tobacco products. But it turns out that if instead of burning the tobacco it is heated to where it produces a fine vapor, then the health challenges are vastly reduced. And that is where Philip Morris International (PMI) comes in.

PMI has spent years and invested billions of dollars on "heat-not-burn" technology, working to modify the risk of tobacco products. Their patented product, the Tobacco Heating System, is a rechargeable electronic heated blade that releases the moisture in tobacco to produce an aerosol that tastes like tobacco and hence satisfies smokers. The tobacco never burns. This is innovation bettering the health of those who already choose to smoke.

Now government needs to get out of the way and let the innovation of the free market help address the major health concern of smoking. Congress created a particular means to provide an incentive for innovators to find a way to reduce the harm of cigarette smoking, or as they are called, Modified Risk Tobacco Products. Congress handed the FDA the authority to authorize such life-saving inventions but they must consider the effects of the new products not just on smokers but on the general population. During this consideration risks are weighed against all the benefits of bringing a new health alternative to market that holds the promise of actually reducing smoking. So, applications for such products must be approved by the FDA. But while the FDA may be famous for approving new products it is equally infamous for throttling innovation by moving at the speed of government. But when lives are at stake certainly the agency could accelerate its review while continuing to be transparent and fair, somewhat mitigating the slowness of bureaucracy and regarding partisan politics.

PMI can help push innovation forward, nudge government to move and provide a pathway for millions of American lives to be saved by making available more scientifically substantiated alternatives to smoking available. The public docket is open on modified risk tobacco product applications and you can submit comments in support of the free market and innovation. From now until December 12 the FDA is accepting public comments, but the FDA is asking for comments to be filed earlier rather than later. Comments are easily filed [here](#).

Those who believe that the free market is the best solution and that liberty is better than big government must be constantly vigilant in big and small ways. The FDA has provided an opportunity for those favoring innovation to make the case for the free market in improving of our nation's health. Please make the case.

Sincerely,

Bartlett Cleland

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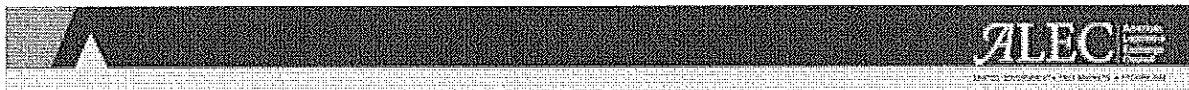
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Dear Representative Schuring,

You're busy -- we get it.

That's why we want to help you save time and energy with our ALEC membership benefit, ALEC CARE- a ground-breaking constituent relationship management (CRM) tool. This dynamic tool allows you to make the most your time and improve your engagement with your constituents.

Our ALEC CARE team would like to help get you and your account started. If you are making plans to attend the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, July 19-21, carve out some time in your schedule for a quick, **20-minute CARE demo**. **Click here** for available time slots. For more information, contact Ashley Varner avarner@alec.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO

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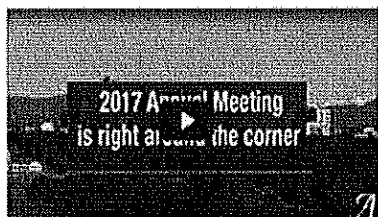
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our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday timeslots. If your Task force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the afternoon for the full schedule.

ALEC CARE Demo Schedule

Meeting Housing Deadline is Monday!

Annual Meeting | Register Today | A Sarah Wood Production



Watch the Full Promo

The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting is just around the corner! If you plan on joining us in Denver, you are not yet done so yet, hurry and reserve your hotel today before the housing block ends Monday. = A

Click here to make your housing reservation.



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Mid-Crisis, Maryland is an Example for the Rest of the Nation

ward | Criminal Justice Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

The opioid crisis has affected rural and urban areas across the nation. Members of all socioeconomic classes in the state of Maryland have been hit par

9 Fortunately, the Maryland legis several measures aimed at address opioid crisis this year. **The bills, w were signed into law** by Republic Larry Hogan, provide a wide range



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ur Underground Water Infrastructure Through Open Competition

City Council Woman | Austin, TX | ACCE



Like so many other people across the country, I was horrified by the water contamination that struck Flint, Michigan. As an elected official who bears direct responsibility for the integrity of my city's drinking water, I ask myself: What can be done to prevent this from happening in my community? Read on for more.



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[Read the Full Article](#)

form Update

nia Passes Bipartisan Pension Reform

nathan Williams | Pension Reform

Thanks to the dedication of numerous ALEC legislative leaders in Harrisburg, pension reform was e Pennsylvania this week. The long-term financial risk to taxpayers of potentially being forced to bail c underfunded pension system is now substantially diminished. [Click here](#) for more.

[Read the Full Article](#)



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.EC Member

domWorks Legislator of the Week

el Hough | MD-04



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Senator Michael Hough is a native Marylander and was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. After graduated high school, he entered the United States Air Force and served as a Minuteman I Technician. He received his A.A from the Community College of the Air Force and B.S. in P Science from Towson University. In addition to his service in the Air Force, Sen. Hough serv legislative aide to Maryland State Senator Alex Mooney before entering the legislature. [Click the full bio.](#)



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From: Spencer Chretien
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:17 PM
To: Spencer Chretien
Subject: Don't Miss Out: ALEC State Leadership Academy July 17-18

Dear friends,

I want to personally invite you to our American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) State Leadership Academy on July 17 and 18 in Denver, CO. Earlier this week you received an email from Iowa House Speaker Linda Upmeyer inviting you, but I wanted to follow up.

This Academy is *exclusively* for legislators who serve in leadership positions, and will bring together your colleagues and counterparts from across the country. We will have exciting outside speakers and plenty of time for fellowship. ALEC will cover two nights' hotel and reimburse up to \$500 in travel costs.

This Academy is being held right before our 2017 Annual Meeting begins; of course, you are welcome to join us for our larger meeting as well.

If you are interested, please RSVP to me for more logistical details. We hope to see you in Denver for our State Leadership Academy!

Thank you for your service as legislators and your commitment to the principles of freedom.

Spencer

Spencer Chretien
Membership Manager
American Legislative Exchange Council
571-482-5013 (office)
202-281-8879 (cell)
SChretien@alec.org



Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2017 – Nashville, Tennessee

2018 Spring Task Force Summit – April 27, 2018 – Grand Rapids, Michigan

The American Legislative Exchange Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is the largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators in the United States dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. The Council is governed by state legislators who comprise the National Board of Legislators and is advised by the Private Enterprise Advisory Council, a group of private, foundation and think tank members.

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Subject: Kirk, here is the latest on donor privacy and free speech

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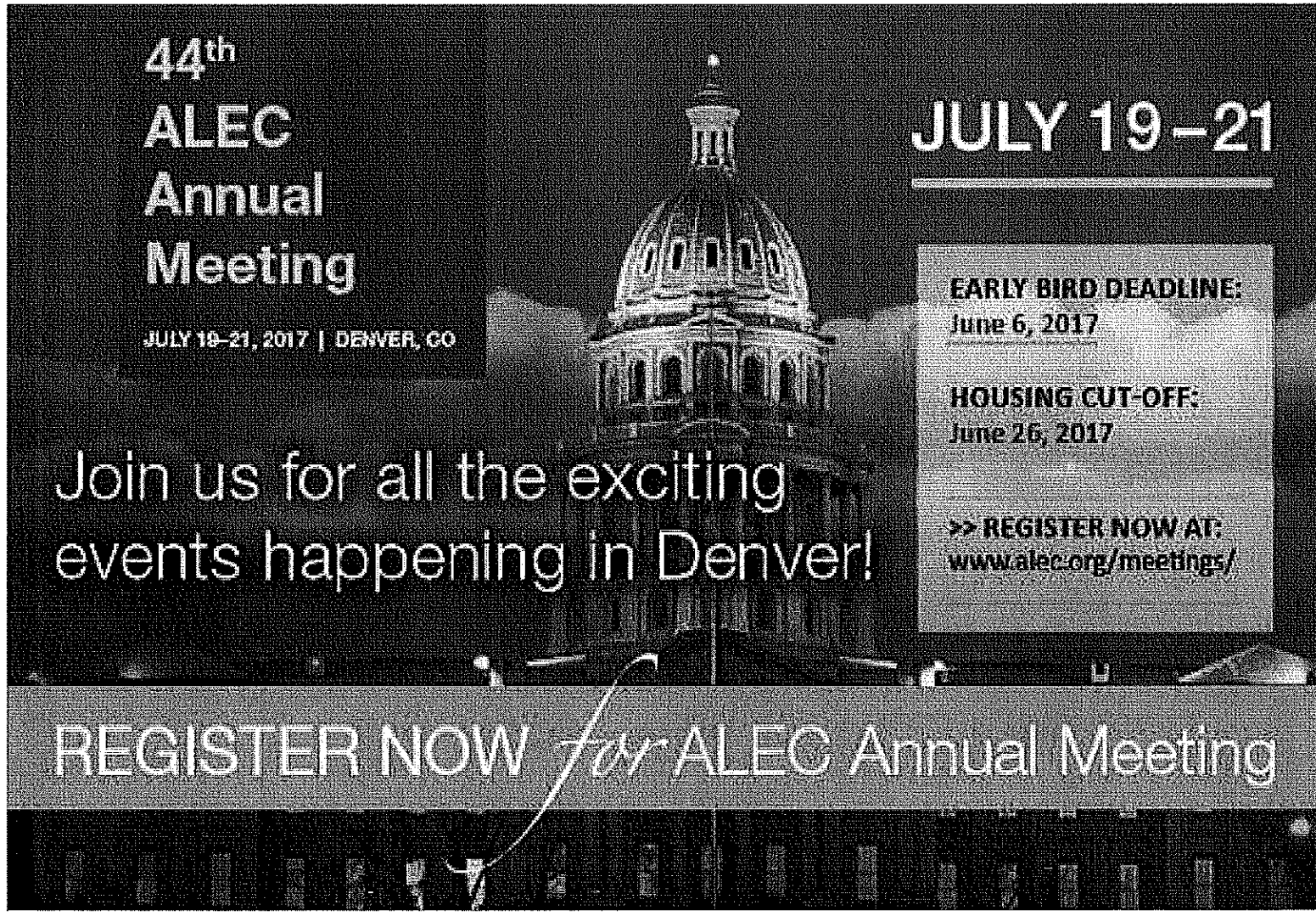
Center to Protect Free Speech - June 27, 2017



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LEC Events Update

First Fridays" Conference Call, Donor Disclosure and Donor Privacy: *Chilling Effect on Free Speech and Association and Charitable Giving*

Friday, June 9th, the Center to Protect Free Speech held its inaugural "First Fridays" conference call. The call featured Sean Parnell of Philanthropy Roundtable. Mr. Parnell discussed donor privacy and why legislation designed to disclose donors to nonprofits organizations is harmful to private and corporate donors and the causes, organizations and people donors care about most.

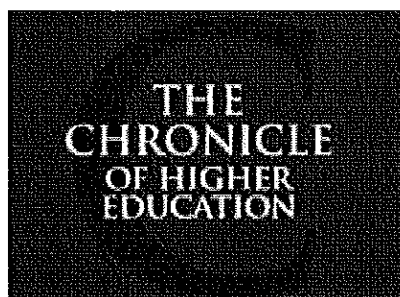
[Click Here Listen to the Recording](#)

[Join the Next "First Fridays" Call](#)

Center Highlight

Why Conservative Lawmakers are Turning to Free Speech Bills as a Fix for Higher Ed

by The Chronicle of Higher Education | B. McMurtie | Shelby Emmett



— A Center Director Shelby Emmett was noted by the Chronicle of Higher Education yesterday, for the newly approved campus speech model policy, the *Forming Open and Robust University Minds (Forum) Act*. Emmett describes an effective approach to promoting campus free speech below.

"The legislature has a role to play because a public institution has an obligation to protect free speech," she says. "But there is an academic-freedom element to that, so we don't want a top-down approach."

[Click here for more.](#)

[Read the Full Article](#)



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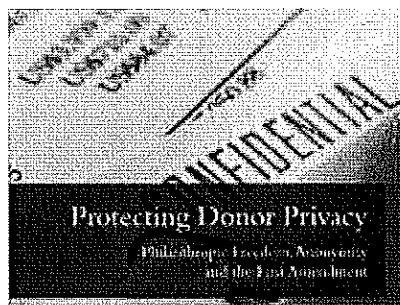
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Philanthropic Freedom, Anonymity and the First Amendment

by Sean Parnell | Philanthropy Roundtable | Donor Privacy | Free Speech



Sean Parnell explains the rich tradition and history of anonymous giving, current threats to donor privacy and what Americans stand to lose if donor privacy is not protected.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

How Law Chills Charitable Giving in New York by Violating Donors' Privacy

in's New York Business | Sean Delany | Laura Abel | Sharon Stapel



[Read the Full Article](#)

There are many good reasons a contributor might want to keep his or her identity and the amount of a contribution confidential: modesty, a fear of danger that would result from exposing the extent of the donor's wealth, a desire to avoid being targeted for funding requests, or wanting to make a donation anonymously to honor a loved one. The state has nothing to gain, and much to lose, by discouraging such people from donating to charity.

[Click here to find out how donor privacy protects your constitutional rights.](#)



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Expert Opinion

K. Charities 'Scared to Speak Out' During Elections

Guardian | Vicky Browning | Donor Intimidation



[Read the Full Article](#)

Vicky Browning, who heads Acevo represents more than 1,000 charity chief executives, said many of her members had reported being 'too nervous, too anxious and too scared about the repercussions' to enter the political debate....'Charities are telling us they feel constrained, that they've been silenced.'

[Click here for more.](#)



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EC Model Policy

ALEC Model Resolution in Support of Nonprofit Donor Privacy

Civil Justice Task Force | Amy Kiose Anderson

In response to attempts to expand the scope and application of donor disclosure requirements to include donors to nonprofit organizations, this model policy resolves to oppose such efforts and protect the privacy of donors.

[Review the Model Policy](#)

Forming Open and Robust University Minds (Forum) Act

Center to Protect Free Speech | Shelby Emmett

ALEC's campus speech model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act has been approved by the board and is now official ALEC model policy. This model policy applies to public institutions of higher education.

[Review the Model Policy](#)

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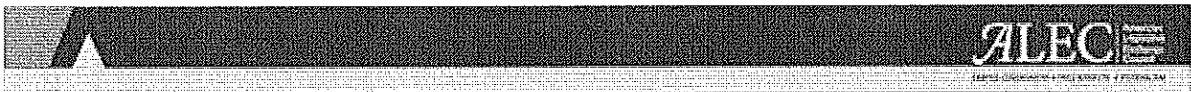
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From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Kirk, Transform Your Relationship With Your Constituents. For Free

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Dear Representative Schuring,

As a legislator, you wear more than one hat: balancing your roles at home, work and in government. You deserve a break anywhere you can get one.

ALEC CARE is the growing, one-stop shop **C**onstituent **R**elationship **M**anagement (**CRM**) tool for legislators. This dynamic tool allows elected officials to prioritize and spend time where it matters by eliminating manual data entry and proactively recording every constituent interaction - building stronger relationships and surfacing key insights into your community.

Would it be even better if that tool was free?

ALEC CARE is 100% free with your ALEC membership. So what is there to lose?

Find out what ALEC members consider one of the most valuable benefits we offer.

Sign up for a personal demonstration to see how it can benefit you.

Click here and a member of our team will reach out to schedule a 20 - minute demonstration.

I hope you will take advantage of this valuable, **FREE** tool.

Sincerely,

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
State Chair, OH

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From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:55 PM
To: rep48la@unityohr
Subject: Message from __ALEC (15714825025)
Attachments: VoiceMessage.wav

From: Speaker Linda Upmeyer
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: IMPORTANT REMINDER: You're Invited to the ALEC State Leadership Academy July 17!

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Dear Kirk,

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I hope you will join me and other legislators from states across the country for an invitation-only academy, designed exclusively for Speakers of the House, Senate Presidents and Caucus and Committee Chairmen.

Don't miss out on this jam-packed event, featuring TV and radio personalities, leading policy experts and valuable opportunities for us to network with leaders in neighboring and regional state legislatures and even gain insight from our counterparts across the country.

This Leadership Academy will be held July 17-18 at the Hyatt Regency Denver in conjunction with the American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting. To RSVP, please contact Spencer Chretien at schretien@alec.org or (571) 482-5013.

ALEC will cover two nights hotel and reimburse up to \$500 in airfare.

[Click here for a copy of the agenda.](#)

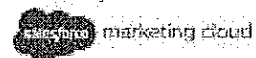
Sincerely,

Speaker Linda Upmeyer, Iowa

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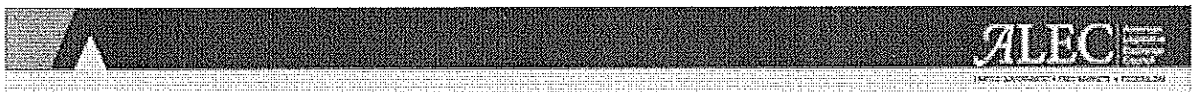
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Subject: Kirk, here are your weekly ALEC updates

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A large banner for the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting. The background is a grayscale silhouette of the Denver skyline. On the left, a dark rectangular box contains the text "44th ALEC Annual Meeting" in white, with "JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO" in smaller white text below it. To the right of this box, the year "2017" is written in a large, white, serif font, with "JULY 19 - 21" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom right of the banner, the text "DENVER, COLORADO" is written in a white, sans-serif font.

[Click Here to Register Today](#)

: Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentencing Explained

Card | A Sarah Wood Production | Criminal Justice Reform

These include low-level runners who are merely involved in the trade because they have an addiction problem.



Watch the Full Video

Federal mandatory minimum sentences provide that if someone is convicted of selling or co-sell over a certain quantity of a particular drug, a judge must sentence the offender to a certain sentence, which can, depending on the offense, range from five years up to life imprisonment.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ance of Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility

Criminal Justice Reform



Raising the age for criminal responsibility for juveniles is an issue on the front lines of criminal justice reform. *Raise the Age* has been passed at some point in almost all states and allow for juveniles to be charged with violent offenses unless they have committed violent offenses, such as murder, armed robbery.

[Click here for more.](#)



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North Carolina Accelerates Broad-Based Tax Relief

State Budget Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Budget proposal continues North Carolina's broad-based and pro-growth tax reforms. North Carolina Senate Leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore revealed details last Monday of a compromise consisting of a \$23 billion budget and \$530 million in tax relief package.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Protect Free Speech Update

First Fridays" Conference Call, Donor Disclosure and Donor Privacy: *Chilling Effect on Free Speech and Association* Giving

On 9th, the Center to Protect Free Speech held its inaugural "First Fridays" conference call. The call featured Sean Parnell of Philanthropy Roundtable and discussed the importance of donor privacy and why legislation designed to disclose donors to nonprofits organizations is harmful to private and corporate donors and the causes, organizations they care about most.

[Click Here to Listen to the Recording](#)

[Join the Next "First Fridays" Call](#)

LEGISLATOR

Missouri Works Legislator of the Week

Elijah Haahr | MO-134



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Representative Elijah Haahr grew up on a farm in southwest Missouri. He graduated cum laude in 2008 from Missouri Western State University (MWSU) with degrees in history and government & public affairs. After time at MWSU, Rep. Haahr moved on to law school at the University of Missouri School of Law, graduating with honors. Rep. Haahr continues his work as an attorney in Springfield at the Lathrop Gage law firm focusing on business litigation.

[Click here](#) for the full bio.



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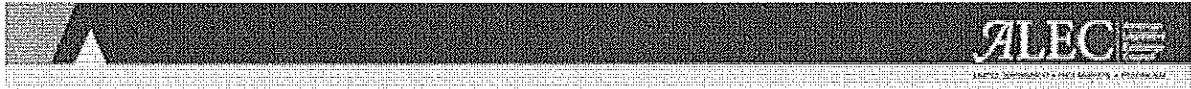
To: Rep48

Subject: Kirk, celebrate your independence day with the latest on state budgets!

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Center for State Fiscal Reform - July 4, 2017



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Expert Opinion

Illinois Must Dig Itself Out of the Fiscal Ditch

ownhall | Jonathan Williams | Christine Smith | State Budget Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Finger-pointing is rampant in Illinois as the state's credit rating has been downgraded by S&P and Moody's to near junk status, the lowest ever for a state.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

In the Kansas Budget Impasse, Look Beyond the Media Hype to the Facts

he Hill | Kansas Senator Ty Masterson | Joel Griffith



[Read the Full Article](#)

The Kansas impasse over how to resolve the budget gap and whether to impose drastic tax hikes has captured the attention of both the state and the nation. Task Force Director Joel Griffith, firmly suggests,

"If legislators value the marked improvement in Kansas jobs growth since the start of 2013, minimizing the tax burden of jobs creators, entrepreneurs, and workers should be at the forefront of a final agreement."

[Click here for more.](#)



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Pension Expert Insight

Pension Obligation Bonds Could Unravel Pension Reform Victory

Joel Griffith | Thurston Powers | Pension Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Recent pension reform progress in states like Pennsylvania could take two steps back, due to Pension Obligation Bonds (POB). POBs are simply not worth the risk of gambling with the hard earned money of both current and future taxpayers.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

Delaware Could Learn an Economic Lesson from North Carolina

The News Journal | Jonathan Williams | James P. Ursomarso



[Read the Full Bio](#)

When it comes to state budget problems, Delaware is not alone as it faces a nearly \$350 million gap. In fact, more than 30 states faced budget shortfalls this fiscal year.

[Click here for more.](#)



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State Budget Report

The Williams Report

State Budget Solutions | Bob Williams | Senior ALEC Scholar



[Read the Full Report](#)

Make sure to catch the bi-monthly *Williams Report* for a quick rundown of action in the states on budget and pension reform.

[Click here for more.](#)



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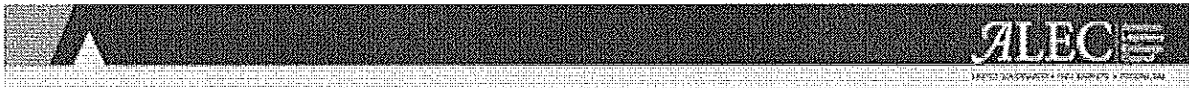
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From: Speaker Linda Upmeyer
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Last chance for the ALEC State Leadership Academy!

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Don't miss out on this exclusive event – RSVP for the State Leadership Academy today!

Dear Kirk,

We all tackle hard-hitting issues in our respective states and while one size does not fit all, why not come together, collaborate and develop winning policy solutions, tailored to the individual needs of our states?

I hope you will join me and other legislators from states across the country for an invitation-only academy, designed exclusively for Speakers of the House, Senate Presidents and Caucus and Committee Chairmen.

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This Leadership Academy will be held July 17-18 at the Hyatt Regency Denver in conjunction with the American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting. To RSVP, please contact Spencer Chretien at schretien@alec.org or (571) 482-5013.

ALEC will cover two nights hotel and reimburse up to \$500 in airfare.

Click here for a copy of the agenda.

I hope you won't miss out on this exclusive event. Please RSVP for the State Leadership Academy today.

Sincerely,

Speaker Linda Upmeyer, Iowa

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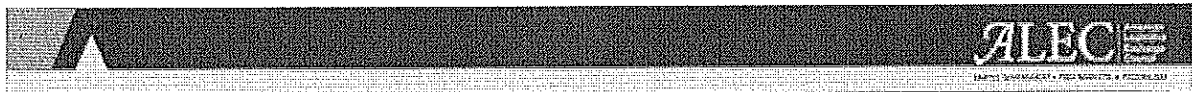
To: Rep48

Subject: ALEC Updates: Federalism is the Answer to Political Violence

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Expert Opinion

Federalism is the Answer to Political Violence

Red Alert Politics | Joseph "CY" Tongate | Federalism



[Read the Full Article](#)

Devolving some powers to the states would allow for the expression of a wider diversity of political views throughout the country, without the fear of violent backlash — restoring the fifty laboratories of democracy, to continue our country's great democratic experiment. Political violence is a cancer on our democracy; **federalism** can be the cure.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

SCOTUS Decision in Trinity Lutheran Sets Stage for Expanded School Choice

Downhall | Inez Feltscher Stepman | Monica Moir | School Choice



[Read the Full Article](#)

In a 7-2 decision last week, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of educational and religious liberty in the highly anticipated case *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer*. The Court concluded **states do not have the power** to bar religious institutions from receiving state aid for a neutral or secular purpose. This ruling could be a major step forward for education choice and opportunity.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

Without Title II, is the Internet the New 'Wild West'?

Daniel Oglesby | Privacy and Security



[Read the Full Article](#)

Without government regulation, some have argued, the Internet is like the Wild West.

The idea is to paint the Internet and the innovators who provide access to it, as living in an untamed and unregulated environment. If the innovators have free rein, then they will inevitably trample all over the individuals who use the Internet.

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Expert Opinion

Delaware Could Learn an Economic Lesson from North Carolina

The News Journal | Jonathan Williams | James P. Ursomarso



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When it comes to state budget problems, Delaware is not alone as it faces a nearly \$350 million gap. In fact, more than 30 states faced budget shortfalls this fiscal year.

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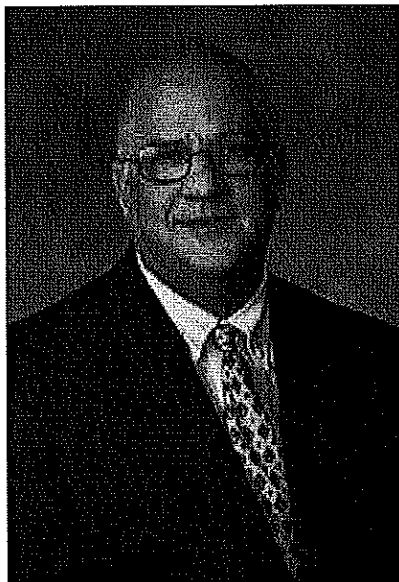


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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Mike Nearman | OR-23



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Representative Mike Nearman is currently serving his second term in the Oregon Legislative Assembly representing the 23rd district. Rep. Nearman is a local Oregonian who attended Jesuit High School in Portland. After his graduation from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Rep. Nearman returned to Oregon to help with his family's business.

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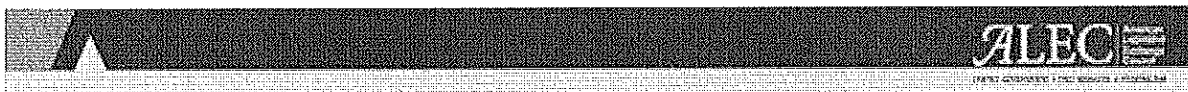
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From: Lisa B. Nelson
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Kirk, 20 Minutes is all I ask

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Dear Kirk,

Over the past three years, ALEC has experienced a period of dramatic growth that ran parallel to a national refocusing on the states and state-based, limited government policy. **Governed by the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, ALEC has dramatically increased policy programming, membership, fundraising, media and public awareness.** Last year was our best fundraising year ever, and thus far this year we've recruited a near-record number of new members.

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by **taking the 2017 ALEC member survey.**

ALEC is at its best when members identify and share the issues they are confronting in the states. For instance, ALEC was on the leading edge of discussion and model policy creation regarding the opioid epidemic because of Wisconsin Representative John Nygren's direction. Similarly, in response to requests from legislators around the country, ALEC is launching a new Task Force focused on Homeland Security (more on that below). These anecdotes are just a few that represent how ALEC can support your research and continuing education needs.

Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

Complete the Survey Here

In a past member survey, we learned members wanted ALEC to be on the cutting edge of new issues and to provide more explainer content to help legislators quickly and easily understand the nuances of a granular piece of policy. And as a result, over the past two years the ALEC team has launched several new Centers or Task Forces as well as produced hundreds of videos.

Please take a moment to view two great new explainer videos on [mandatory minimum sentencing](#) and [tax reform](#). And, please be sure to share them with your colleagues.

ew policy content comes in many forms such as working groups. Many of you may have participated in the Homeland Security Working Group over the past three meetings. The new Homeland Security Task Force which will meet for the first time at the Denver Annual Meeting will focus on a myriad of security issues, from school security to cybersecurity, from first responders to infrastructure and everything in between to bring state legislators, local and county elected officials, and industry and thought leaders together for information sharing, and the creation of model policy. If you or one of our peers are interested in joining the task force please email Spencer Chretien schretien@alec.org.

LEC is growing to serve its members. With an eye toward all we've accomplished over the past 45 years, we are headed toward a bright future where leaders will lead the way. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Denver Annual Meeting this month and appreciate you taking time to **complete the member survey**.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO



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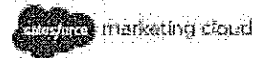
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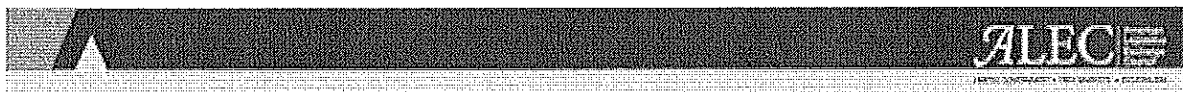
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ALEC Annual Meeting Resources

Confirmed Speakers



[See the Line-up](#)

Travel/Lodging



[Make Your Reservation](#)

For the Kids



[Kids Congress](#)

Annual Meeting Agenda Spotlight

Homeland Security Task Force Meeting

Contact Spencer Chretien to Join: Schretien@alec.org



[Read the Full Article](#)

The new **Homeland Security Task Force** will meet for the first time at the **Denver Annual Meeting**. The meeting will focus on a myriad of security issues, including school security, cybersecurity, first responders, infrastructure and much more. Click below for the full meeting agenda.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



[CARE Demo Schedule](#)

While you make plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out time for a **quick, 20-minute CARE demonstration.**

ALEC CARE is an internet-based, one-stop shop for **Constituent Relationship Management (CRM)** for lawmakers. This valuable suite contains outreach communication and constituent data retention tools to help legislators expand their constituent engagement. Customizable constituent profiles, versatile email and touch-tone phone surveys, and text and SMS push messaging help public officials gain real-time insight into the attitudes and policy priorities of their constituents.

If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday time-slots. If your Task Force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the Thursday line-up.

Annual Meeting Agenda Update

ALEC Workshop Line-up

Wednesday, July 19 ALEC Workshops:

Restoring the Balance of Government

The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety

Health, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Getting the Response to the Opioid Crisis Right

Innovation and Technology

The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives

Health, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions

Thursday, July 20 Workshops:

Restoring the Balance of Government

Why the Nation Needs You to Drain the Swamp With the Ultimate Tool of Federalism: 4 Perspectives on Article V

Innovation and Technology

Prescription Drug Abuse: A Collective Approach to Policy Solutions Is Essential

Innovation and Technology

Beyond the Headlines: The Data and Trends You Need to Know about School Choice

Friday, July 29 ALEC Workshops:

Health, Fiscal and Efficiency in Government

Marijuana: Determining the Financial Impact of Legalization and Regulation

[Click Here for the Full Meeting Agenda](#)

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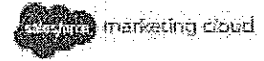
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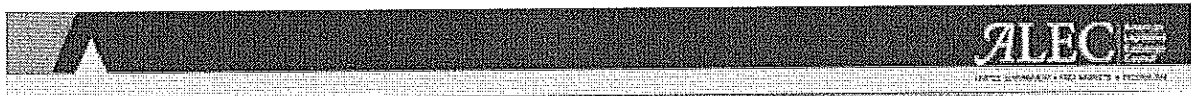
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2017 ALEC Member Survey

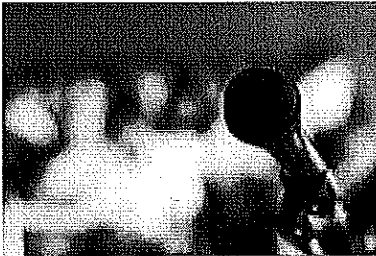
As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey. **Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey.** It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has for more than two generations.

[Click Here to Complete Your Survey](#)

ALEC Annual Meeting Resources

Annual Meeting Speaker Updates

Click the link below for the complete list



The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, has an exciting speaker lineup. With new confirmations everyday, keep an eye on your inbox for the latest on meeting updates.

[Confirmed Speakers](#)

Annual Meeting Travel and Lodging

Click below for a list of alternative hotels in the area



The ALEC hotel block is CLOSED. If you have not yet booked your hotel room for Denver, contact the hotel directly for possible cancellations or click the link below for a list of near by hotels.

[Alternative Hotels](#)

ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



[CARE Demo Schedule](#)

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Center to Protect Free Speech Update

Three (Quick!) Lessons for Legislators About Commercial Speech

Shelby Emmett | Commercial Speech

Proceed with caution when limiting or compelling commercial speech, the Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) warns.

"Government legislators and regulators should think long and hard before using any speech restraint or compelled disclosure to pursue their consumption preferences or policy goals." This is the conclusion of the new policy paper by the WLF.

In this easy-to-read three lesson article, Center Director Shelby Emmett breaks down the fundamentals of protecting commercial speech.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Kim Coleman | UT-42

Representative Kim Coleman was born in New Orleans and spent her early childhood years in Louisiana and Texas. Before entering politics, Rep. Coleman was involved in business. She received undergraduate degrees in sociology and psychology, and a certification in criminology from the University of Utah. After graduate work in addictions counseling, Rep. Coleman dedicated her time to inpatient treatment of adolescents with mental health disorders and substance addicted teens.

[Click Here for the Full Bio.](#)



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From: Daniel Seiple
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:24 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Are you going to Denver?

Kirk Schuring,

I am writing to ask if you are attending the American Legislative Exchange Council's annual conference in Denver this month.

I am very concerned about ALEC's influence. ALEC is an organization that has repeatedly put corporate profits above the desire of the American people.

By refusing to become a member of ALEC, you stand with the people you represent. People that play fair and work hard.

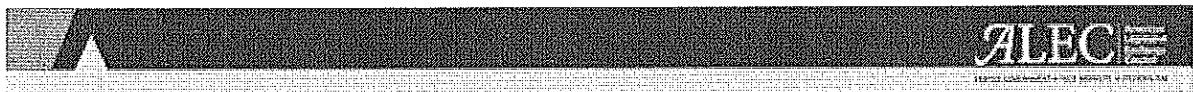
Daniel Seiple
danbev22@neo.rr.com
1933 Wynstone Cir. N.E.
North Canton, Ohio 44720

From: American Legislative Exchange Council
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Center to Restore the Balance of Government -
July 18, 2017



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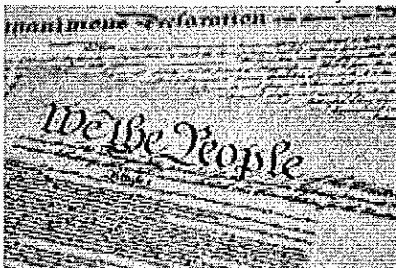
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[Click Here to Register Today](#)

44th ALEC Annual Meeting

Federalism and International Relations Task Force Meeting Look Ahead

Contact Karla Jones for Further Details: kjones@alec.org



As one of the ALEC guiding principles, federalism will take center stage at the ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 19-21, 2017, and here are some of the highlights.

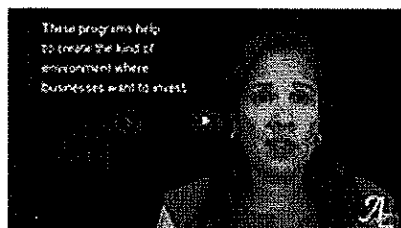
The Federalism and International Relations Subcommittees will meet on Wednesday, July 19 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM and the Task Force on Friday, July 21 from 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Federalism-focused segments included in the link below.

[Click Here for Meeting Details](#)

IEW: ALEC Video

Policy 101: Foreign Aid Explained

Policy Explainer Video | Karla Jones | A Sarah Wood Production



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director lays out the truth behind foreign aid.

"What if I told you that one of the most effective weapons in America's national security arsenal is also one of its least expensive? In fact, it makes up less than one percent of the federal budget."

[Click here for more.](#)



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Administration Update

ALEC Is Newest Member of Advisory Council of the Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs

Marla Jones | Federalism



[Read the Full Article](#)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Earlier this month, ALEC was invited to join the Advisory Council of the U.S. House Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs. Chaired by Utah Congressman Rob Bishop, the Task Force has a five-fold mission.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

Release of the 2017 International Property Rights Index: On the (Property) Right Track

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Intellectual Property



[Read the Full Article](#)

On July 11, the Americans for Tax Reform Property Rights Alliance released its *2017 International Property Rights Index*, which measures Physical Property Rights, Intellectual Property Rights and the prevailing Legal and Political Environment in 127 countries representing 98 percent of global GDP. *The International Property Rights Index* ranks countries on a scale of one to ten, with ten being a perfect property rights score.



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Expert Opinion

Postcards From Texas: Part II

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Federalism | Texas



[Read the Full Article](#)

ALEC Intern, Cy provides a look into the unique pride Texans have in their home states' historic independence. Click the link below for a fresh perspective on the political network that runs deep in the heart of Texas.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Daily Look Ahead - July 19, 2017



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JULY 19-21, 2017 | DENVER, CO

2017
JULY 19 - 21

DENVER, COLORADO

[View Today's Agenda](#)

[Have a Question?](#)

[Conference Center Map](#)

Welcome to the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting



Thank you for joining us for the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting in the mile high city! ALEC meeting attendees must go to the first floor and take the escalator up to the third floor to access the ALEC Annual Meeting space. Look below for today's meeting details.

[Watch Today's Video Promo](#)

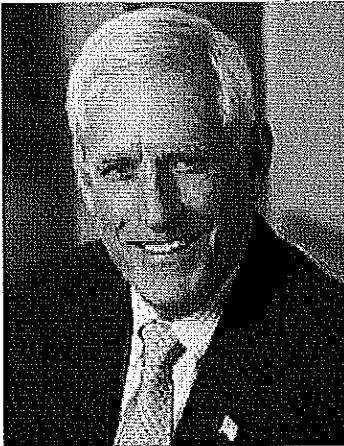
Plenary Session - Wednesday, July 19

Opening Luncheon Panel Discussion: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by: Anadarko, Extraction Oil & Gas, Noble Energy | Hosted By: ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech

Mr. Peter H. Coors

CCRO | Molson Coors Brewing Co.



Opening Lunch Panelist:
Mr. Peter H. Coors

Peter H. Coors is Chairman and Chief Customer Relations Officer of Molson Coors Brewing Company.

Darcy Olson

Former CEO | Goldwater Institute

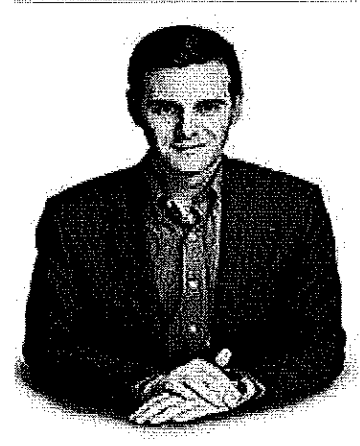


Opening Lunch Panelist:
Darcy Olson

Darcy Olson is the former CEO of the Goldwater Institute.

Mr. Guy Benson

Editor | Townhall | Contributor | Fox News



Opening Lunch Panelist:
Mr. Guy Benson

Guy Benson is the Political Editor of Townhall.com and a Fox News Contributor.

[Speaker Bio](#)

Speaker Bio

Speaker Bio



Today's Speakers

Cynthia Coffman - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H
Mr. Chip Rimer - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H
Mr. Steve Forbes - 11:30 AM - Centennial D-H

Full Speaker Line up



ALEC After Hours

Appaloosa Grill - Happy Hour - Directions
Casa Bonita - For the Family - Directions
Jack-n-Grill - "Man-vs-Food" - Directions

ALEC After Party

Wondering What's On The Agenda Today?

Workshops

- 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM (Centennial A - Level 3) *The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Government vs. State Agencies & How the Industry can Best Balance Transparency and Safety*
- 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM (Centennial C - Level 3) *Getting the Opioid Crisis Right*
- 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM (Centennial A - Level 3) *Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions*
- 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM (Centennial C - Level 3) *The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives*

Receptions

- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Agate A - Level 3) *Consumer Technology Association Hospitality Suite*
- 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM (Mineral D-E) *American City County Exchange Welcome Reception*
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (Denver City Terrace-Level 5) *Women's Caucus Reception (Members Only)*
- 4:45 PM - 7:30 PM (Lobby) *Shuttles to/from Welcome Reception*
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (*Offsite Mile High Stadium)

Contact Courtney Cook for more information: ccook@alec.org

[Click Here for the Subcommittee Meeting Schedule](#)

ALEC CARE

ALEC CARE Demos in Denver

Contact Ashley Varner for more information: avarner@alec.org



CARE Demo Schedule

While you are making plans for your Task Force meetings, make sure to carve out some time for a quick, 20 - minute CARE demonstration.

If your Task Force meeting is on Thursday, our CARE team would be happy to reserve your spot during one of the Friday time-slots. If your Task force meeting falls on Friday, drop by during the Thursday line-up.



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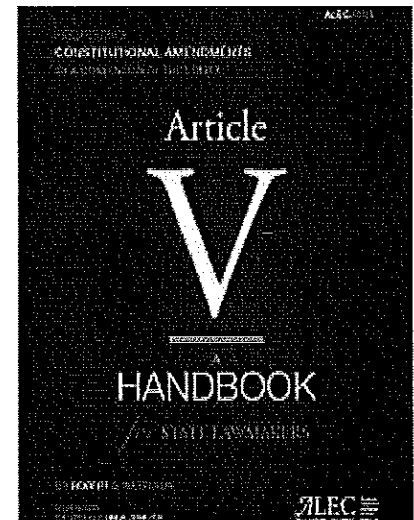
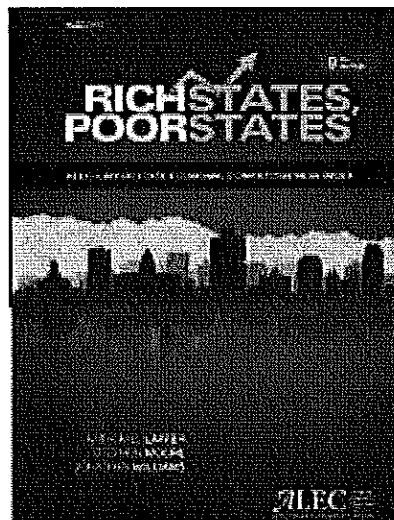
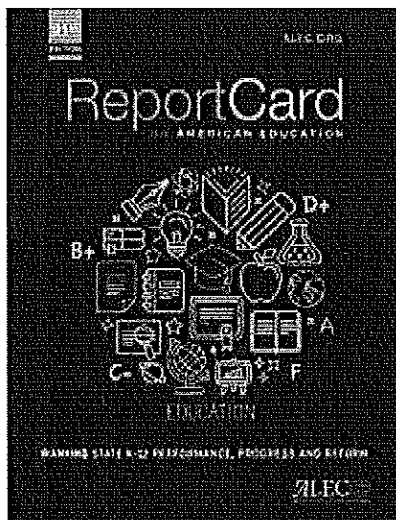
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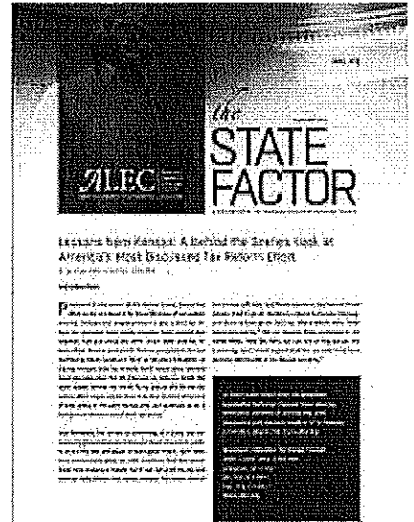
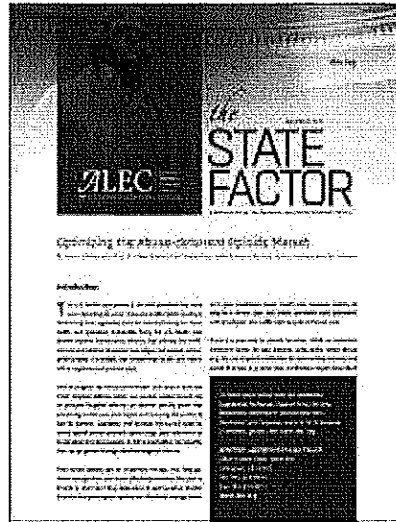
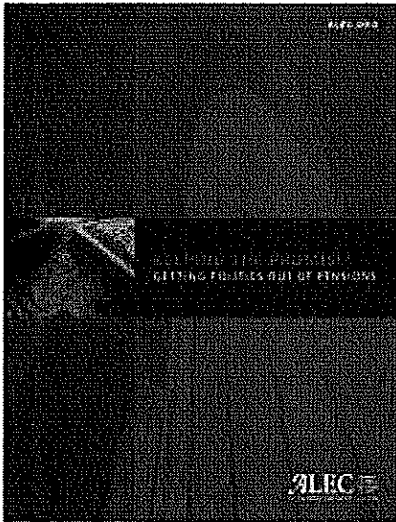


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4th ALEC Annual Meeting Library

Stop by the ALEC Library in Exhibition hall, outside of Centennial Ballroom for copies of What Our Experts are Reading





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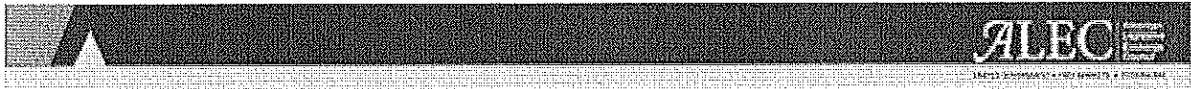
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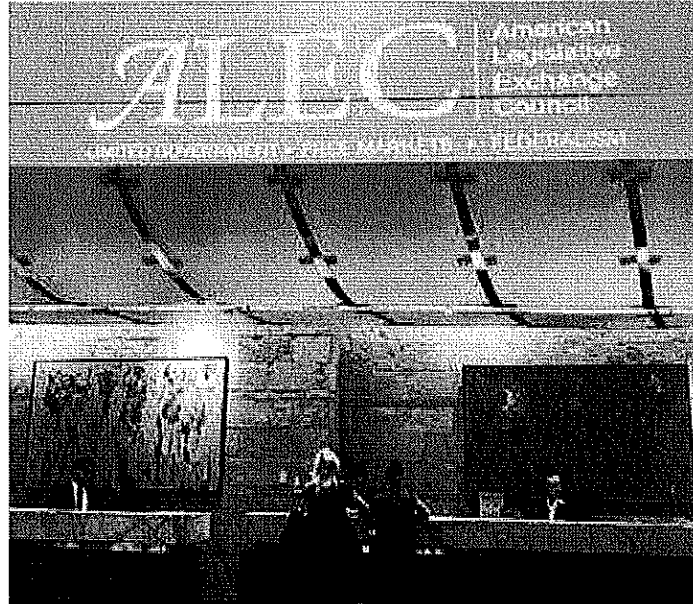
2017
JULY 19-21

DENVER, COLORADO

44th ALEC Annual Meeting

ALEC Annual in the Mile High City in Full Swing

ALEC Social: [Twitter Alec_states](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@alec.states](#)



The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting is in full swing in the mile high city. On day two, we have already had a policy packed agenda with more than a few exciting appearances from the Administration and from our friends in the private sector. For a full recap and real time updates, follow ALEC on social

Click the links below to connect with us.

Facebook: [@alec.states](#) Twitter: [@alec_states](#) | [#ALECinCo](#)

Featured ALEC Member

Honoring Senator Leah Vukmir, the 2017 Iron Lady

Senator Leah Vukmir | 2017 ALEC Iron Lady



ALEC was proud to present Wisconsin Senator and long time ALEC member, Leah Vukmir with the ALEC Iron Lady award last night, during the Women's Caucus Reception. Senator Vukmir has served as a flawless example of what a women legislators aspire to be and young women everywhere look to become.

Connect with us on social for more.

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Steve Forbes Talks Taxes, Property Rights and Health Care

Steve Forbes | #ALECinCo | 44th ALEC Annual Meeting



Watch the Speech

Steve Forbes Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, spoke to the ALEC standards on taxes, property right and Health Care policy, during the opening lunch plenary session.

Click here for more.



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A weekly report on education news & commentary from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity

THE GREATEST HITS OF 2017 SO FAR...

...but before we get to that, a couple of late-breaking notes from a mid-summer swirl of ed-related news

SMART ALEC. It was great to attend the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting that went off in Denver last week. The program featured Education and Workforce Development Task Force meetings on K-12 and Higher Education and a workshop on the data and trends on school choice. Model policies were presented, covering education savings accounts, scholarship tax credits, and the protection of free speech in higher education. And there was a policy discussion and debate between representatives from the American Federation of Children and the Heritage Foundation the federal role in

advancing school choice. (Included in the discussion from Heritage: an option to repurpose a federal Impact aid program into student-centered, parent-controlled education savings accounts that would provide active-duty military families with education choice. Hmmm.)

BLOWIN' UP ON TWITTER. As you may have heard AFT president Randi Weingarten went all in on race baiting at the union's annual summer meeting calling tuition tax credits and the like "only slightly more polite cousins of segregation." Some took exception to her insulting, hateful insinuation and said she should resign. She took exception to the exception. In all seriousness, Weingarten's warped opinions on this matter are abhorrent and, we hope, in no way reflect the views of union members. This isn't just a kerfuffle; it's a thing. Weingarten needs to go.

We're waiting for her next blow up. The Lone Star State's Senate Education Committee passed two key bills last Friday, including one that would create a scholarship program for students looking to enroll in private school. We're awaiting Randi Weingarten's statement calling all who voted for the measures racists.

...And now, back to our previously scheduled programming

A NOTICE FROM SCOTUS. One of the bigger deals leading up the Summer of 2017 was the Supreme Court's Trinity Lutheran Decision. Trinity Lutheran had been denied funding from the state of Missouri for a playground surface solely because its school is a religious one. The lower court had relied on the Blaine Amendment that dates back to the 1800's which prohibits the use of public funds at sectarian institutions. The decision that Trinity Lutheran's "exclusion from a public benefit is "odious to our Constitution" and "a clear infringement on free exercise" has ramifications for the future of educational choice, further opening the door for parents to decide the best educational opportunities for their children, be they private, religious or public in nature.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'. A big deal in California, too, when the makeup of the LA School Board flipped to a majority of charter supporters for first time ever. The election included victories for charter school proponents Nick Melvoin—in District 4 in the West San Fernando Valley, over incumbent School Board President Steve Zimmer who was supported by public service employee unions—and Kelly Gonez in District 6, East San Fernando Valley.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC TO OUR EARS. Back in March, Kentucky became the 44th state to allow charter schools. Great news, albeit tempered by the fact that the law could have, and should have, been stronger. Still, half a loaf is better than none. The bill allows both local school districts and the mayors of Lexington and Louisville to authorize an unlimited number of charter schools, most of which are not likely to open until 2018-2019.

SPRING THAW. In April, Minnesota passed an Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program. The program enables students to receive \$7500 opportunity scholarships, creating more choice for low income and working-class families.

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BIG FUN DOWN ON THE BAYOU. In May, Louisiana's Senate Education Committee defeated legislation that sought to weaken the Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP). Senate Bill 13 would have placed restrictions on the eligibility of Kindergarten students entering the LSP. As every student in the program comes from a low-income family with 89% minority representation, the scholarship creates opportunities for Louisiana's most vulnerable students.

MEANWHILE IN THE HEARTLAND. May also was when the Nebraska School Choice Bill moved forward. The bill, which is expected to go to a vote in January would allow up to \$2 million in tax credits in its first year, creating more educational opportunities for more of the Heartland's children.

SAY "CHEESE." In June Wisconsin Badgers were all smiles when the State Assembly followed the Senate's lead by passing (in bi-partisan fashion mind you) a bill that increases accountability and enhances efficiencies in the state's school choice programs. The bill calls for greater financial accountability and also revises the financing formula so that special needs scholarship students receive more funding.

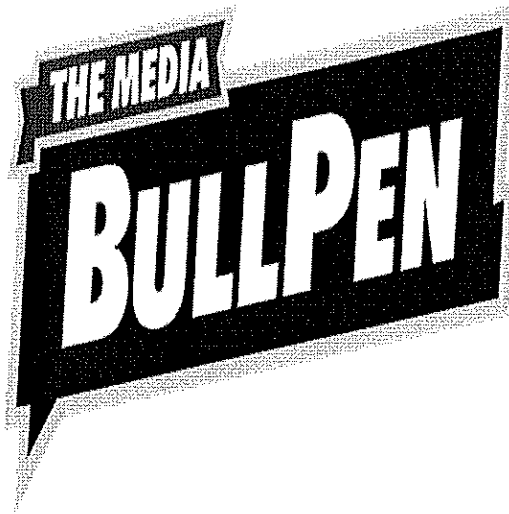
DIAMONDBACK DEALINGS. In April Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed SB1431 within hours of the legislation passing both the House and Senate yesterday. Now all Arizona children will, over the course of four years, become eligible to apply for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program that allows education dollars to follow each individual child to the school or learning environment they need.

TOMORROW IS HERE. In May, Teachers of Tomorrow was approved as alternative route to certification in SC. The program is helping the Palmetto state to address its teacher shortage with a new pipeline of enthusiastic educators.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND! To give direction to, and spur action by, the new administration, back in January CER issued "The First Hundred Days: The path to going bold on education innovation & opportunity." Of course, as with Rome, reform wasn't accomplished in such a short time so, to hold everyone's feet to the fire, in June CER presented a scorecard on actions to date, and re-issued its call to action in Beyond the First 100 Days: Transforming government's role in education. There is a HUGE opportunity to finally achieve substantive education reform at the federal level...if we don't lose our way. 100 Days is a roadmap that can keep everyone on track.

REDISCOVERING REFORM. Also in June CER issued Charting a New Course challenging the education reform movement to refocus on the real core principle of reform: the right of parents. The collection of essays explores how school choice and the charter school movements have evolved, or mutated,

and now consist of two camps: one that relies on bureaucracies and officialdom to decide what educational options are best for kids, and one that relies on innovators and parents. As previously noted, the former sounds A LOT like the status-quo-education-establishment arguments that have been reform's bane from the beginning; while the latter sounds like, well, one of the core principles on which reform was founded. [Read it here.](#)



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For more, check out the [Media Bullpen.](#)

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Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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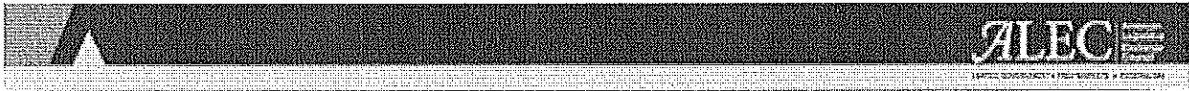
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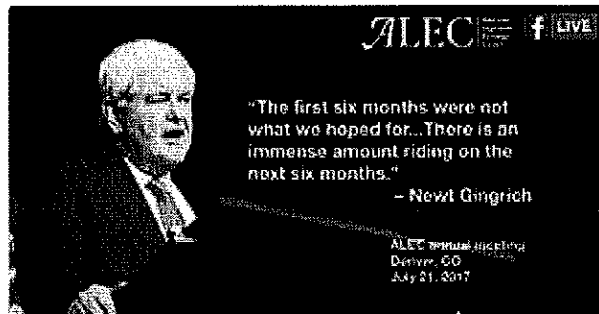
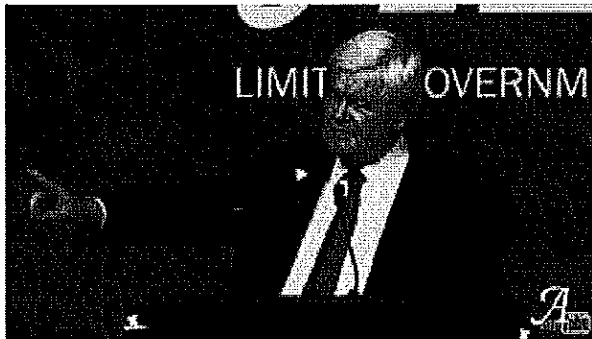
44th ALEC Annual Meeting: Recap



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ALEC Annual Meeting Highlights

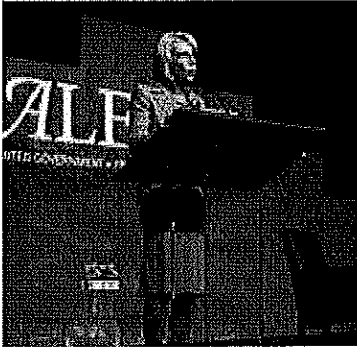
Three Cabinet Secretaries Setting Their Sights on the States

Education Secretary: Betsy DeVos | Labor Secretary: Alex Acosta | Interior Secretary: Ryan Zinke

Ed. Secretary Betsy DeVos

[Click here to watch the full speech](#)

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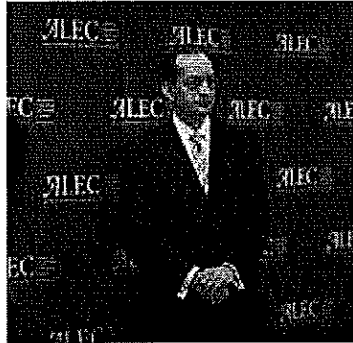


Ed. Secretary DeVos spoke to ALEC members about the importance of camps free speech and returning choice back to the states. [Click here for front page, Denver Post Coverage.](#)

[Watch the Full Speech](#)

Labor Sec. Alex Acosta

[Click here to watch the full speech](#)



Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, joined us in Denver - talking jobs and workforce development. Sec. Acosta offered a clear path to decreasing excessive occupational licensing for a stronger American workforce.

[Watch the Full Speech](#)

Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke

[Click here to see the highlights on Twitter](#)



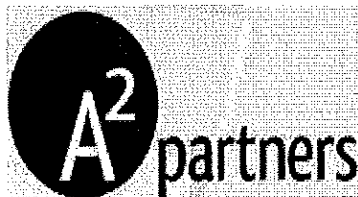
Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke joined ALEC in Denver. Not on horseback unfortunately, to discuss how we can conserve public lands and reminding our legislators to "never forget where you come from and who you represent".

[Click Here for More](#)

Annual Meeting Resources

Take Your Training Home - Click Below For a Copy of the Training Session Presentations

A2 Partners - Quorum - Jean Card Ink - District Media Group - Quorum

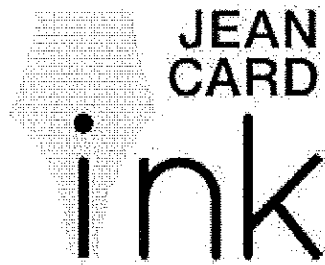


A2partners provided techniques and tools they have used to win campaigns and influence policy through effective advocacy and education efforts throughout the U.S. and around the world. [Click below to grab A2partner's training session materials.](#)



In this political landscape, legislators must seize the opportunity to engage on new platforms to share their message and legislative agenda through social media. [Click below to grab Quorum's training session materials.](#)

Get Your Copy



Writer and communications specialist Jean Card covered constructive constituent communications and public speaking in an interactive training session. Click below to learn new skills and gain a fresh perspective on how to keep constituents and other key audiences engaged.

Get Your Copy

Get Your Copy



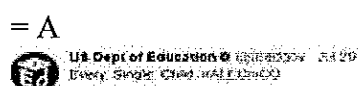
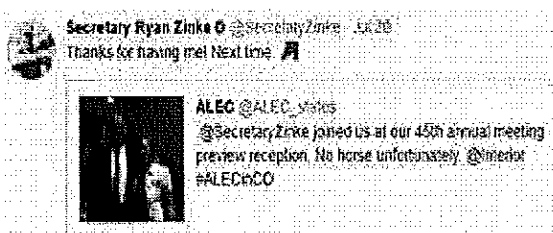
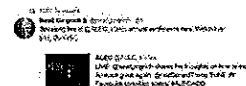
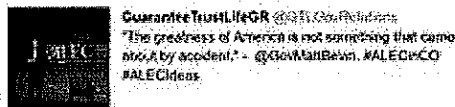
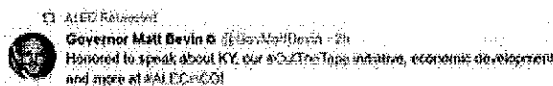
Media training focuses on the verbal, vocal and visual components of strong interviews. What you say and how you say it is critical to making sure your interview strikes a nerve and resonates with audiences. District Media Group teaches best practices for every media scenario. Click below for media tips.

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ALEC Annual Meeting in Action

Get the Full Scoop on Annual Media Through ALEC Social Media

#ALECinCO | Twitter: @ALEC_States | Facebook: @alec.states | Youtube: AmericanLegislative



Our work will not be done until every child in America
EVERY SINGLE CHILD
has an equal opportunity to a world-class education.



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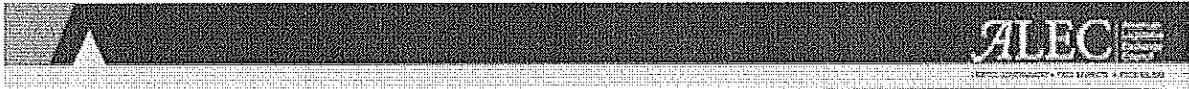
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Digital Exchange: July 27, 2017



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Click below to watch President Ronald Reagan speak to members of the American Legislative Exchange Council upon receiving the Thomas Jefferson Award.

[Watch the Full Video](#)

ALEC In The News

ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Supports Protesters in Denver

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech | A Sarah Wood Production



Despite disagreements, the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech was proud to support the First Amendment rights of the protesters at our Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

[Click here for more.](#)



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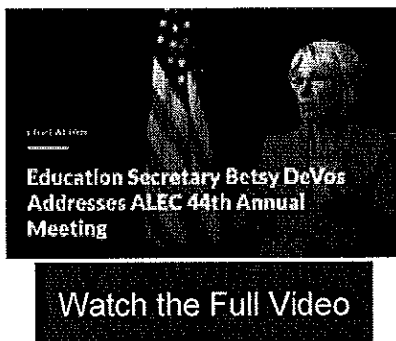


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ALEC In Denver

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Addresses ALEC 44th Annual Meeting

Betsy DeVos | Education | 44th Annual Meeting



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos talks education reform and bringing choice back to the states at the 44th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC in the States

Generations of Opportunity: Right to Work

Kansas | Right to Work



Click below to see how policies that promote worker's rights, like Right to Work are transforming states across the nation.

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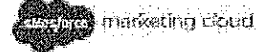


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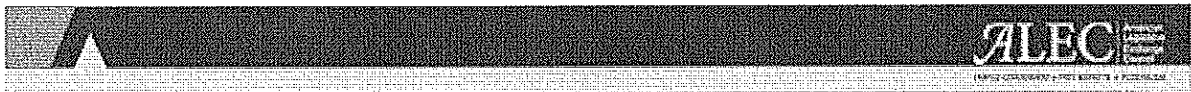
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Dear friends,

The incredible ALEC meeting in Denver last week sent many of us home with a new understanding of the power we have to affect change across the nation and deliver real results to our local communities. What we heard when we were together was a clear **opportunity agenda for 2018** and beyond. We can make a real difference right now. **By pursuing tax cuts; workforce development; labor, occupational licensing, and criminal justice reforms in our states, we can deliver measurable success and lead the nation into the 2018.**

But more powerful than our ability to legislate or innovate as individuals is our ability to deliver real results to our local communities by—with a single, strong, national voice—calling for genuine accountability and a real plan of action to deliver meaningful reforms at the federal level. During the 2016 election cycle, nearly every presidential candidate spoke about returning power to the states, and to the people.

Now, quite simply, it's up to us to take the power that's been offered. It's time to lead.

Ours is not a revolution to wrest control from the federal government—certainly there are countless cases where a federal government is good and necessary. Ours instead is a rebalancing where local state legislators who are closer to their communities and fight daily to protect hardworking taxpayers have more of a voice in the direction of our country.

Each of us has a voice. If we work together and echo one another to advance an **opportunity agenda** at the state and federal level, we can very quickly deliver real results. At the ALEC meeting, Governor Bevin called the approach "Shock and Awe." On one January day, the Kentucky Legislature sent seven bills including right-to-work and other key reforms to Governor Bevin's desk. Kentucky legislators achieved their bold goal by working together and fostering partnership between both houses and the Governor's office long in advance of the votes. You see, as Speaker Gingrich said in Denver, "If we collectively take up this challenge, we can make it dramatically easier to change America."

At the beginning of this Congress, the federal legislature also set forth several bold goals; among them

healthcare and tax reform. Because healthcare makes up one-sixth of the American economy and the taxes people pay fund everything from street lights, roads and bridges to public employee pensions and interest payments on debt, healthcare and tax reform are very bold goals. And it hasn't worked quite as we imagined. There is conflict around these reforms because there are real issues at stake. And, that's to be expected.

In Denver, Speaker Gingrich proposed a more simple, incremental approach—one that will help normal folks, not tax economists—understand the value of a tax system that protects hardworking taxpayers instead of treating them like an ATM. The most simple and immediate tax reform that we can achieve this year is a **tax cut on individuals and on business.**

Our plan of action starts here: Federal tax cuts on individuals and businesses will let people keep more of their hard-earned money and help business owners reinvest in training, expansion and wage increases. A recent poll of 500 small business owners conducted by the Job Creators Network shows how tax cuts for small businesses directly benefits hardworking citizens. A full 70 percent of small businesses would reinvest tax cuts back into their business and employees through capital investments, wage increases, new hiring and expansions. Further, nearly half of small business owners responded by saying a tax cut is the policy reform that would help their business the most.

We have just suffered through the weakest economic recovery since World War II. The American people want to work. They are leading the technology revolution and ready for a new industrial revolution focused on advanced manufacturing and innovation. But, the unbridled power of American exceptionalism has been constrained for too long by over taxation, over regulation and too much red tape.

Imagine for a moment what the country would look like if states—in partnership with Congress—truly led the way on issues like tax cuts. It's not that hard to imagine really: In the past four years, 30 states have cut taxes. Nine states have no income tax at all. No income tax states grew 111 percent faster than the nine states with the highest income tax, and private sector job growth increased 28 percent faster.

I ask you to imagine, but it really isn't that hard. States are already leading the way. Washington, D.C. simply must follow. But they won't know where to go unless we tell them. It's our time to lead. We simply can't let this opportunity pass.

So, now I'm going to ask you to do a few things. They will help you join in our plan of action and accountability that puts our local communities first. You don't have to do them right away because they will take a little time, but please commit right now to doing the following:

1. Watch or re-watch the following speeches from Annual Meeting:

- **Speaker Newt Gingrich on Tax Cuts, local power and understanding Trump**
- **Governor Matt Bevin and Travis Brown on labor reform and workforce development**
- **Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta on occupational licensing and workforce development**

2. Read the following briefs:

- **The Jonathan Williams Tax Cut memo**
- **The ALEC Tax Cut Round Ups, to learn how tax cuts benefited 30 states**
- **The 10th Edition of *Rich States, Poor States***

3. Share this perspective with your local communities and your congressional delegation

4. Join upcoming ALEC organizing calls in September and October so we are all ready and

committed to the 2018 opportunity agenda.

Thank you for your commitment to ALEC, to our founding principles of limited government, free markets and federalism and to the United States of America.


Sincerely,

Senator Jim Buck
Indiana, District 21
2017 ALEC National Chairman

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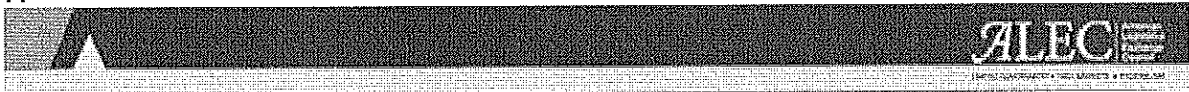
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Center to Protect Free Speech - August 1, 2017



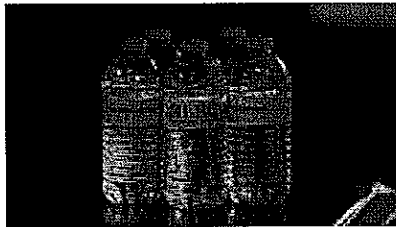
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ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Supports Protesters in Denver

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech



The ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech was proud to support the First Amendment rights of the protesters at our Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. We even gave them water bottles from ALEC that said "Quenching your thirst for free speech"

[Watch the Full Video](#)

ALEC on Campus For Free Speech

ALEC Director Shelby Emmett Talks Campus Speech at YAL2017

Shelby Emmett | @spartanshelby | YAL2017



ALEC Center Director Shelby Emmett, encourages members of Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) at their annual conference - prompting them to reach across ideological lines to raise awareness and concern for speech issues on their campus.

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC Events Update

"First Fridays" Conference Call - August 11, 2017

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech | [RSVP Here](#)



On Friday, August 11th at 11 AM EDT the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next "First Fridays" conference call. Please join Center Director Shelby Emmett for a review of the free speech events at ALEC's Annual Meeting!

[Click here for more.](#)



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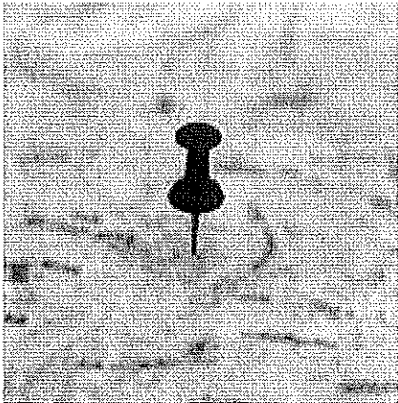


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What We're Doing in the States

Have a Free Speech Issue Briefing in Your State

Contact Shelby Emmett for more information: semmett@alec.org



Schedule Yours Today

We are currently holding a series of free speech issue briefings for state legislators at state capitols across the United States! These briefings cover the issues of campus speech, donor privacy and commercial speech. We have already held briefings in South Carolina, Michigan and Utah and have several additional briefings scheduled for the fall.

If you are interested in having an issue briefing in your state on free speech, click below and Shelby Emmett will reach out to you soon.

Contact Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org



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44th ALEC Annual Meeting

DeVos Urges State Legislators to Take on Foes of Campus Speech

The Washington Times | Campus Speech | Ed. Secretary DeVos



The Washington Times covered ALEC's new campus speech model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.

"Shelby Emmett, director of ALEC's Center to Protect Free Speech, said the proposed policy differs from others that require free speech education only for incoming freshmen. 'Obviously, there's a problem with free speech on campus well before freshmen arrive if you have administrators or campus police officers who think you can detain or arrest or suspend a student because they passed out a Constitution,' said Ms. Emmett. 'I think it's easy to go after the students, but this is a cultural problem.'"



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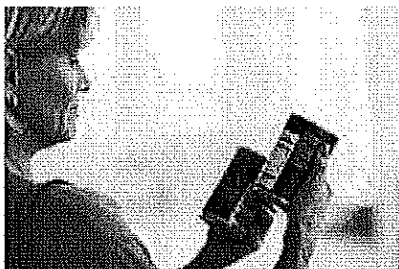


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Featured Center Resource

Three (Quick!) Lessons for Legislators About Commercial Speech

Shelby Emmett | Commercial Speech



[Read the Full Article](#)

"Proceed with caution when limiting or compelling commercial speech, the Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) warns....In this easy-to-read two-page document, Megan L. Brown and Bert W. Rein provide three key lessons summarizing how the courts have interpreted commercial speech laws and regulations and what legislators should keep in mind when tackling commercial speech issues in the future"

[Click here for more.](#)



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44th ALEC Annual Meeting Wrap-up

The Center to Protect Free Speech - Annual Meeting Wrap-up

#ALECinCO | Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org | 44th ALEC Annual Meeting

-
- During the State Leadership Academy held directly before ALEC's Annual Meeting, Shelby Emmett participated in a lively discussion regarding donor privacy on a panel moderated by State Policy Network CEO Tracie Sharp. Attending were legislative leaders from 19 states.
 - Shelby Emmett, Center director and former state and Congressional hill staffer, talked to legislative staff from 20 states about campus speech and donor privacy. The Center was very excited to meet so many legislative staff from across the country who are passionate about protecting the free speech rights of their constituents.
 - = ADuring an engaging panel discussion on the importance of commercial speech to the free market economy, members of the Civil Justice Task Force learned that protecting commercial speech is about keeping the government from standing in the way of entrepreneurial endeavors. When overregulation gets in the way of businesses marketing truthful information or forces them to disclose information that will do nothing to cure deceptive practices, it is overstepping the First Amendment and problematically limiting consumer choice. The Center was happy to team up with Amy Anderson, director of the Civil Justice Task Force to moderate the commercial speech panel. The Center would like to thank all the panel participants and the members of the task force for such an incredible welcome.
 - The Center to Protect Free Speech and the Civil Justice Task Force conducted a reception and focus group on donor privacy to learn more about how they can help state legislators on this issue. Thank you to our public sector members for attending the focus group. Your valuable insight helps us each and every day.
-

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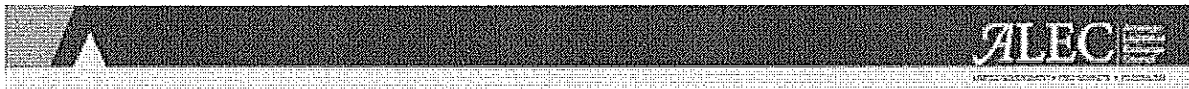
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ALEC in the News

Accurate Representation of ALEC on National Public Radio

ALEC Mentions | NPR | Transparency

ASSOCIATED PRESS: ALEC, ACCE Among the Most Prominent Conservative Groups

Nicholas Riccardi | Associated Press | ACCE



TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES: On nationally syndicated NPR show The1A yesterday, Reid Wilson of *The Hill* redirected a question about ALEC "secrecy" by saying "It's funny. They're not so secretive anymore." From 33:13 to 34:28 he goes on to accurately discuss what ALEC does and how ALEC works. Earlier in the segment he discusses the pitfalls of poorly drafted ballot initiatives versus policy drafted by professional legislative drafting lawyers. Please listen to this segment.
[Click here for more.](#)

SHARE THIS STORY: A recent Associated Press article from the ALEC Annual Meeting called ALEC one of the most prominent conservative groups in the country and profiled the growth and need for the American City County Exchange. This is an excellent story to like, post and share with your colleagues at the local and state level.

[Click here for more.](#)

[Read the Full Article](#)

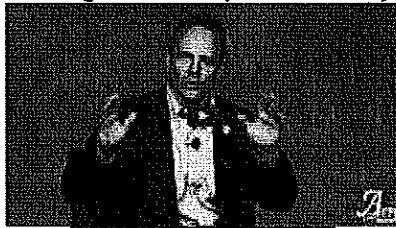
[Listen to the Recording](#)

State Reform Spotlight

Kentucky is Leading the Way on Labor and Regulatory Reform

Regulatory Reform | Kentucky

Cutting the Red Tape in Kentucky



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Generations of Opportunity: Right to Work



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin stresses the importance of cutting red tape and shows how Kentucky has experienced growth by enacting reforms like right to work.

Expert Opinion

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams on Wichita Liberty TV

Jonathan Williams | Wichita Liberty TV | Tax Reform



[Watch the Segment](#)

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams sits down with Bob Weeks of Wichita Liberty TV to discuss ALEC, ACCE and recent work.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Kim Thatcher | OR-13



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Senator Kim Thatcher is a long-time Oregonian joining the Oregon State House of Representatives in 2004. She is currently serving her first term representing the 13th Senate District in Oregon and resides in Keizer, OR with her husband, Karl, and her teenage son. She is the mother of four, and grandmother of five. Sen. Thatcher is an avid contributor to her community as a church volunteer, Cubmaster, and member of three Chambers of Commerce.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

Rice, Rice Baby!

Josh Veronica | International Trade | USDA



[Read the Full Article](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a landmark trade agreement with China—a major victory for U.S. farmers and for the Trump administration.

The deal "allow[s] the United States to begin exporting rice to China for the first time ever." The United States already exports half of the rice it produces, but prior trade barriers have kept U.S. rice farmers from reaching their full export potential.

[Click here for more.](#)



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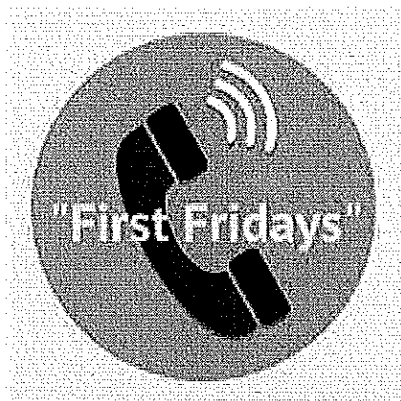


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ALEC Events Update

"First Fridays" Conference Call - August 11, 2017

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech | [RSVP Here](#)



[Click Here to RSVP](#)

On Friday, August 11th at 11 AM EDT the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next "First Fridays" conference call. Please join Center Director Shelby Emmett for a review of the free speech events at the ALEC Annual Meeting.

[Click here for more.](#)



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44th ALEC Annual Meeting - Survey

If you joined us in Denver for the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting, please take a moment to tell us how we did. Your feedback is important and will help us build on our most successful meeting to date.

[Complete Your Survey](#)

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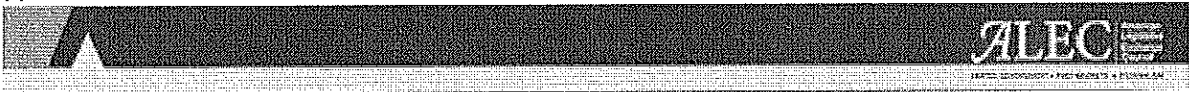
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Center for State Fiscal Reform - August 8, 2017



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It's Time for Real Tax Cuts

Jonathan Williams | Memo | Federal Tax Reform



Because hardworking taxpayers need to be protected, instead of simply shifting the tax burden through tax reform, it's time for real tax cuts at the federal level... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC In The News

Chief Economist Jonathan Williams on Wichita Liberty TV 0

Jonathan Williams | Wichita Liberty TV | Tax Reform



Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams sits down with Bob Weeks of Wichita Liberty TV to discuss the ALEC mission and recent work.... **(watch the full segment)**

State Budget Spotlight

North Carolina Accelerates Broad-Based Tax Relief

Elliot Young | Budget Reform



North Carolina Senate Leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore revealed details of a compromise consisting of a \$23 billion budget and \$530 million in tax relief package ... **(more)**

Expert Insight

Bad News for Illinois

Chris Woodward | Budget Reform



Recent actions in Illinois may result in more people leaving the state. Last week, the Illinois Legislature voted to override Republican Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of a spending plan and income tax increase ... **(more)**

Expert Opinion

The Time for Pension Reform is Now

Bob Williams | Huffington Post | Pension Reform



Over the past month, Michigan and Pennsylvania lawmakers joined a handful of other states in passing meaningful pension reform. It's high time for the rest of the nation to follow their lead. Unfunded pension liabilities today are pushing many cities close to bankruptcy; state pension plans are similarly in dubious fiscal health... [\(more\)](#)

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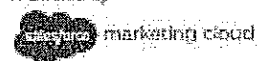


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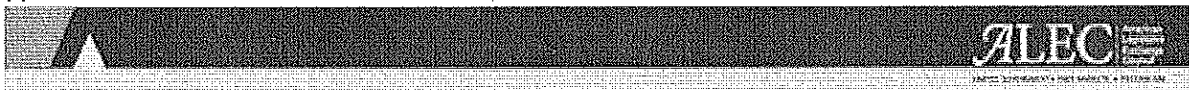
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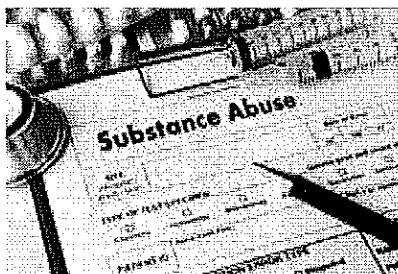
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While Progressives Protest, ALEC is Working to Stop the Opioid Crisis

Matt Vespa | Reporter, *Townhall*

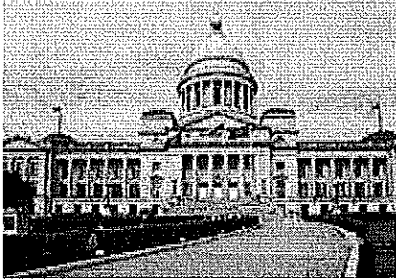


A recent *Townhall* article offers a first-hand account of ALEC's workshops on addiction from the July Annual Meeting. Matt Vespa provides a pointed list of how ALEC is working with the states to combat the opioid crisis... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Arkansas Fumbles the Ball With Fantasy Sports Tax

Elliot Young | Regulatory Reform



Arkansas joined thirteen other states that have legalized betting on fantasy sports contests. ALEC's Elliot Young opposes singling out this industry for what he calls, "discriminatory taxation"... [\(more\)](#)

NEW: ALEC Video

Donor Disclosure in an Age of No Privacy

Sarah Wood | Free Speech



Guy Benson, Darcy Olsen and Pete Coors addressed the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting on donor disclosure in an age of no privacy... [\(watch video\)](#)

Expert Insight

Thou Shalt Not Steel

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | International Trade

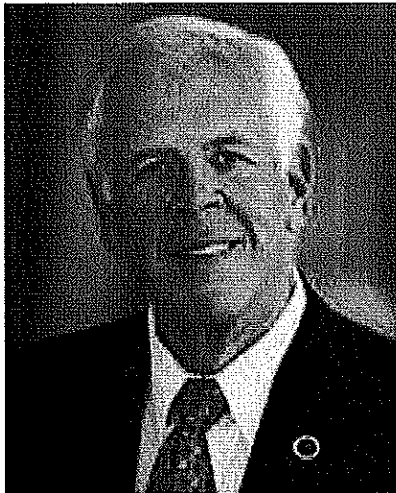


The Trump Administration announced they are delaying action on whether to impose tariffs on steel imports. For years, the U.S. steel industry claims illegal dumping has shuttered mills resulting in massive job losses... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Bill Taylor | SC-86



Representative Bill Taylor of South Carolina was first elected to the General Assembly in 2010. He serves on the Education and Public Works Committee and is Chairman of the Higher Education subcommittee. [\(more\)](#)

2017 ALEC Member Survey

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey. Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

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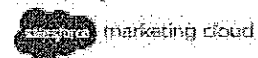
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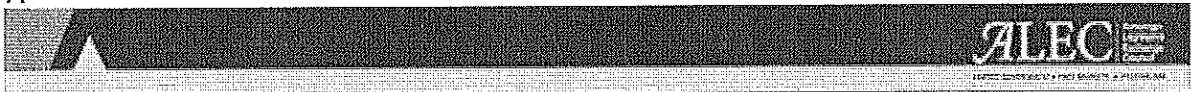
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Events and Education - August 15, 2017



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[Complete Your Survey](#)

ALEC Headline News

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Americans Need Tax Cuts, Plain and Simple

Jonathan Williams | *The Hill*



ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams writes how America has "fallen behind by simply standing still," in his latest piece in *The Hill*. He goes on to write that the key to making America competitive again is simple: simplify the tax code... [\(more\)](#)

Will Congress Censor Reddit in the Name of Combatting Sex Trafficking?

Jonathon Hauenschild | *The Hill*



ALEC Communications and Technology Task Force Director Jonathon Hauenschild offers two different approaches companies like Reddit, Facebook, Twitter and Amazon might take to combat online sex trafficking... [\(more\)](#)

Trouble Draining the Swamp? Try Returning Power Back to the States

Taylor McCarty | *The Hill*



ALEC Public Affairs team member Taylor McCarty sounds the warning of our founding fathers in her column in *The Hill*. McCarty writes, "Power must be returned from the unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats of the political class as well as the legislature....to truly drain the swamp, and return power to the states"... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech | Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech - "First Fridays" Call will return in September.** Please join the Center in September for a back-to-school themed call that will focus campus speech and the Forming Open and Robust Minds (FORUM) Act with special guest Casey Mattox of Alliance Defending Freedom... [\(RSVP HERE\)](#)
 - **Center for State Fiscal Reform - Keep an eye on your inbox .** With federal tax reform on the rise, the Center will be hosting a series of weekly interactive calls on federal tax cut and reform legislation. These will serve to provide timely updates on progress as well as to solicit feedback from our legislators and private sector members.
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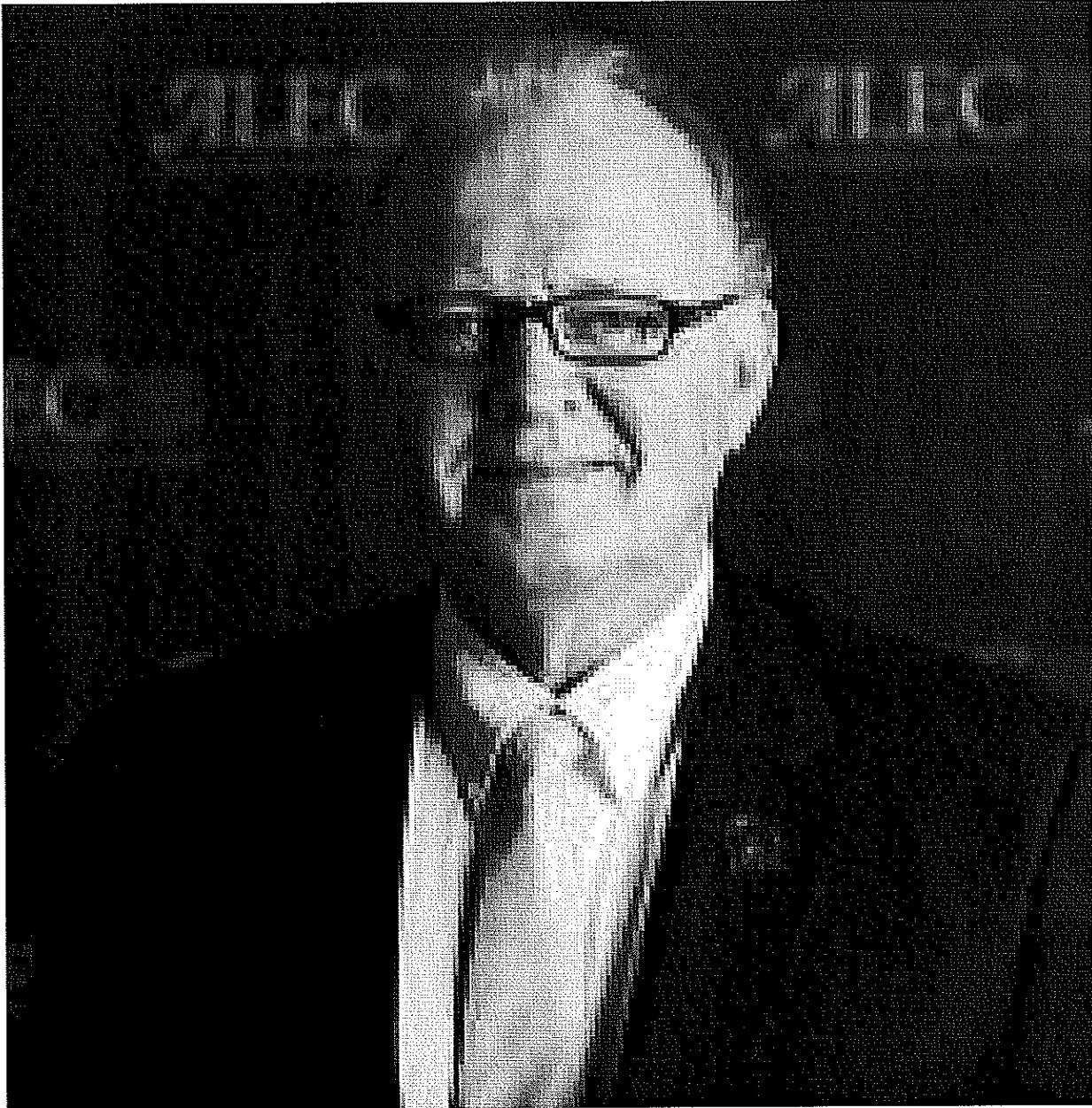
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August 16, 2017



Dear State
Leaders:

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the U.S. healthcare system. Through a combination of deregulation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and legislative action in Congress, ALEC supports enacting public policies that will create a patient-centered healthcare system that grants maximum authority to states in how they regulate their insurance markets, as well as reform each state's Medicaid program. On behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), I am requesting all ALEC members reach out to your elected officials in Congress and *strongly urge* them to continue their efforts to arrive at a compromise to

repeal and
replace the
Affordable Care
Act, otherwise
known as
Obamacare.

At ALEC, we are committed to enacting meaningful reforms to our healthcare system; however, with the regulatory burdens that have been brought on by Obamacare, we are unable to facilitate patient-centered policies that offer more competition and choice to the market. To this end, we request that Congress allow states to choose the level of regulation they have over the administration of their healthcare systems. Granting this authority will allow the original "laboratories of democracy" to design their regulatory framework, and serve their most vulnerable populations in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Since its implementation, Obamacare has given the federal government unprecedented authority over the cost and administration of healthcare in the United States. As a result, premiums have skyrocketed and the number of people on Medicaid has increased by 28 percent, an enormous increase for those eligible to receive government-sponsored healthcare. To reverse this trend, states must be empowered to limit government mandates and lay the foundation for more free-market reforms so patients may have more competition and choice in how they receive and access the care they need. This will begin with Congress repealing and replacing Obamacare.

While we understand the challenges associated with compromise, leaving Obamacare in place is not an option. States should be given maximum flexibility to either opt-in or out of some or all of Obamacare Title 1 requirements, as well as implement market-based reforms that will increase access to and bring down the cost of care to their Medicaid programs through the waiver process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Further, we request Congress prioritize restructuring the Medicaid program in to a block grant or per-capita allotment reimbursement system, a reform the Congressional Budget Office recently scored to save taxpayers \$880 billion[i] and would be one of the biggest entitlement reform achievements in U.S. history.

States should take back their rightful authority to enact fundamental reform and improvement of healthcare in the U.S. If Congress and the Executive Branch do not repeal harmful taxes, fees and regulatory mandates, Americans will continue to lose access to health coverage and see double-digit increases in their health insurance premiums. Please join me in urging your members of Congress to continue to work toward repealing and replacing Obamacare, before this landmark moment passes us by.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Buck
National Chairman
American Legislative Exchange Council

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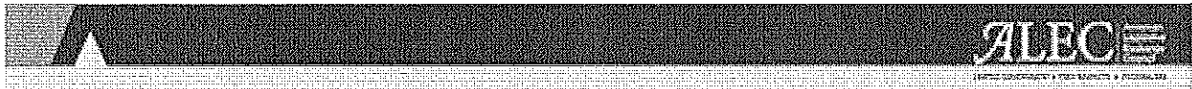
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Subject: Kirk, Does Your State's Income Tax Cover School Supplies?

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Digital Exchange - August 17, 2017



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Federalism and the Philippines

Karla Jones | ALEC Blog



Karla Jones, ALEC Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director, was invited to present overseas on "Understanding the Structures of Federalism" at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Karla led a robust conversation on federalism in the Philippines... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Headline News

ALEC and ACCE Sit Down With USA Today

Jonathan Williams | Jon Russell | *USA Today*



Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist, and Jon Russell, ACCE Executive Director sat down with *USA Today* to discuss "left-wing special interest groups" advancing its issues through local governments... [\(more\)](#)

Parents Frustrated That State Income Taxes Don't Cover School Supplies

Chris Woodward | Inez Feltcher Stepman | *Lifezette*



Inez Fletscher Stepman, Education and Workforce Development Task Force Director, told Chris Woodward of LifeZette, "The frustration [of families who must fortify the supplies of the schools] is justified, but let's look at where the taxpayer investment is actually going instead of assuming it's just too low."... [\(more\)](#)

What's Happening in the States

Court Strikes Down Minnesota Governor's Move to Defund Legislature

Bob Williams | *Huffington Post*



A line-item veto by Minnesota's Governor Mark Dayton to strip the legislature of funding to help balance the budget was ruled unconstitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court. ALEC ranked Minnesota 45th in economic outlook in the 10th edition of *Rich States, Poor States*... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Nathan Dahm | OK-33



Sen. Nathan Dahm represents the 33rd district as a 2nd term Whip in the Oklahoma Legislature. He is the Chair of the General Government committee, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary committee, and a member of the Rules, Business and Commerce, and Appropriations committees.... [\(more\)](#)

2017 Member Survey

As we enter our 45th year, you can play an integral role in assuring that we remain the leading state legislative organization. Take a few minutes to help us better serve you by taking our 2017 Member Survey.

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech | Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech - "First Fridays" Call will return in September... (RSVP)**
 - **Center for State Fiscal Reform - Keep an eye on your inbox.** The Center will be hosting a series of weekly calls to provide timely updates on tax reform legislation.
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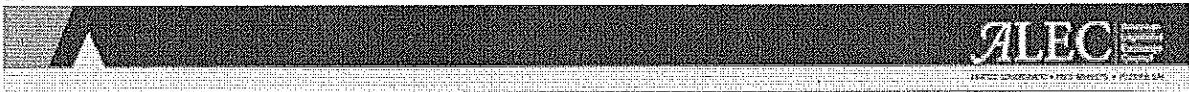
Subject: Trouble draining the swamp? Try Returning Power to the States

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Federalism and International Relations Updates



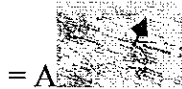
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Federalism and the Philippines

Karla Jones | ALEC Blog



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Karla Jones, ALEC Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director was invited to the U.S. Embassy in Manila, to showcase how federalism would work for the Philippines... [\(more\)](#)

Trouble Draining the Swamp? Try Returning Power to the States

Taylor McCarty | *The Hill*



ALEC Public Affairs team member Taylor McCarty sounds the warning of our founding fathers in her column in *The Hill*. McCarty writes, "Power must be returned from the unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats of the political class as well as the legislature....to truly drain the swamp, and return power to the states"... [\(more\)](#)

What's Happening in the States

= APostcards from Texas Part III

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | ALEC Blog



San Antonio is older than the United States. It is the site of the Alamo and the River Walk. Despite all of its beautiful attractions, it is also known to some as "NAFTA City"... [\(more\)](#)

The EPA's Assault on Sheboygan County

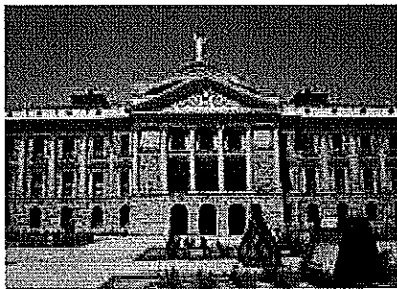
Jake Curtis | Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty



The EPA has proposed redesignating Sheboygan County's air quality ozone status raising it from "nonattainment marginal" to "nonattainment moderate." The rule received resistance from lawmakers, the business community and the WI Department of Natural Resources... [\(more\)](#)

States Hold Rules Convention for Adopting Balanced Budget Amendment

William H. Fruth | BBA Task Force



On September 12th in Phoenix, state delegations will hold a "formal" rules convention as a precursor to a future full convention to amend Article V of the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to produce a balanced budget... [\(more\)](#)

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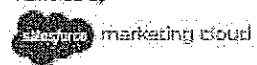


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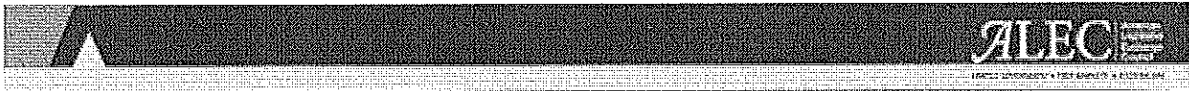
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Jonathan Williams Sits Down With The Daily Signal

Jonathan Williams | The Daily Signal



Jonathan Williams joins Genevieve Wood of The Daily Signal at The Heritage Foundation to discuss ALEC and the Center for State Fiscal Reform... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Headline News

Ronald Lampard Discusses the Opioid Crisis on Tipping Point

Ronald Lampard | One America Network - Tipping Point



= A

Ronald Lampard, Director of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, discusses the national opioid crisis with Stephanie Hamill.... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

Want to be an Interior Designer? Wait Six Years to be Legally Licensed

Tom McLaughlin | *Red Alert Politics*



Tom McLaughlin of ALEC explains the reality of today's occupational licensing. In a *Red Alert Politics* article, he exposes one of many excessive state licensing regulations--in this case, a six-year certification process for interior designers... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

= A Senator Denny Hoskins | MO-21



Senator Denny Hoskins, represents District 21 in the Missouri Senate. In 2016 he was elected to serve in the Missouri Senate. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 and elected to the office of Speaker Pro Tem in 2013. .. [\(more\)](#)

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

ALEC Events Update

August - September Look Ahead

Free Speech I Tax Reform

- **Center to Protect Free Speech** - "First Fridays" Call will return September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT, for a back-to-school themed call. (RSVP)
 - **Center for State Fiscal Reform** - **Keep an eye on your inbox.** The Center will be hosting a series of weekly calls to provide timely updates on tax reform legislation.
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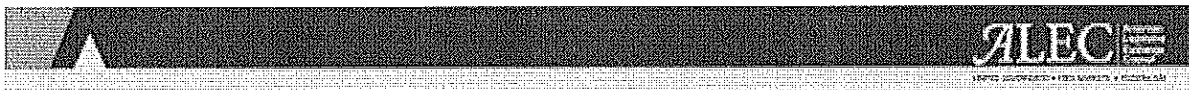
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From: Senator Leah Vukmir
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Subject: ALEC Campus Free Speech Policy Call – SEPT. 8th, 11 AM EDT

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Dear Kirk,

As students return to college, campus speech will once again be in the news. If there's a major incident, state legislators need to be aware of ways to act. On **September 8th**, I will be leading the discussion on a campus free speech model policy called the FORUM ACT. Joining me from the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech is director Shelby Emmett. We will also be joined by Casey Mattox of the Alliance Defending Freedom.

Sept. 8 @ 11 AM EDT
RSVP Conference Call
FORUM Act info

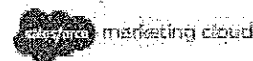
This new model provides a clear path forward for state legislators. The challenge we face is determining the right action that encourages rather than chills free speech on campus. I hope you'll join us to find out more. **RSVP**

Sincerely,

Senator Leah Vukmir
Public Chair
The Center to Protect Free Speech

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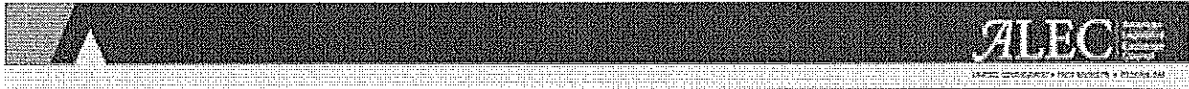
Subject: ALEC Center Update - Innovative Policing: Saves Time and Money

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Center for Innovation and Technology

When Innovation Disrupts Policing, Citizens, Municipalities and Police Win



Police forces often face budget challenges and time crunches – little money and more work than time allows. In this environment, technological innovations can come slowly, expensive, difficult to deploy and integrate. The challenges for police are not much different than the challenges most people face. With lack of time and stretched resources, even important, unexpected or non-routine tasks become hard to complete. In Texas there is innovation, in law and in technology, to help both the police and the public.

The law in Texas was changed two years ago to allow, and now the technology provides, a means for drivers to pay their past due traffic tickets on the spot even after a warrant for their arrest had been issued for failure to pay. **Techsig**, a company that "provides police departments technologies and solution-sets designed to efficiently drive compliance, while increasing public safety," has introduced a product and service called **WarrantPayIQ** that enables the process and gives life to the advantages provided for in the law.

Before the legal change and the new technology, a law enforcement would pull over a motorist and during the stop they might become aware that the driver has an outstanding warrant for their arrest due to unpaid traffic tickets. The police would then have to place the driver under arrest, guide them through the expensive jail booking process, put them in jail, so they then could appear before the court. Their car would be impounded and child they had with them, assuming no relative was available to retrieve them, would be given over to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

This series of unfortunate events can be curtailed. Instead of the driver being arrested they have the option to pay the outstanding fines with a debit or credit card. The officer hands the driver a piece of hardware that looks much like a mobile phone nestled in a larger plastic casing. Through easy prompts the driver can pay their fines, ultimately swiping their credit or debit card. Once the fine is taken care of, the family continues on its way. Even with this new law and technology in place, the driver will still have the option to be taken to jail and face the court and contest the fine and warrant.

The benefits to society are obvious. Law enforcement runs more efficiently. instead of time and resources are prioritized to the most serious offenders, hence relieving jail crowding. Having the fines paid with less hassle and expense provides the anticipated resources to the jurisdiction to meet their budgetary expectations. But most importantly, citizens have a means for avoiding the embarrassment, disruption and additional costs associated with being arrested and taken to jail.

Innovation can disrupt processes, organizations and even whole industries often causing confusion and angst until a new means of operation emerges. In this case, the citizens are the winners and the winning effects immediate.

Sincerely,

Bartlett Cleland

Director

Center for Innovation and Technology


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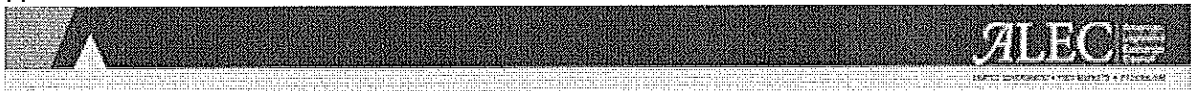
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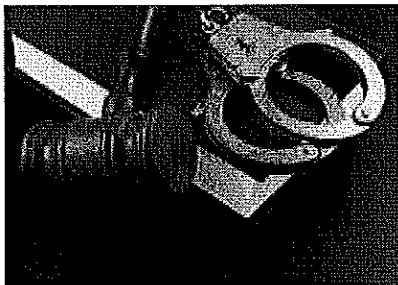
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Arizona Governor Ducey Recognizes Importance of Re-entry Programs

Ronald J. Lampard | The ALEC Blog

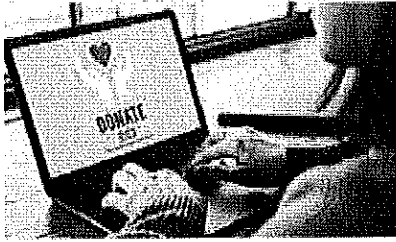


Under Gov. Ducey's leadership, Arizona has identified the benefits of re-entry programs. Roughly 95% of all state and federal inmates will leave prison at some point in their lives... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

A Huge Donor Disclosure Threat

Shelby Emmett | The ALEC Blog

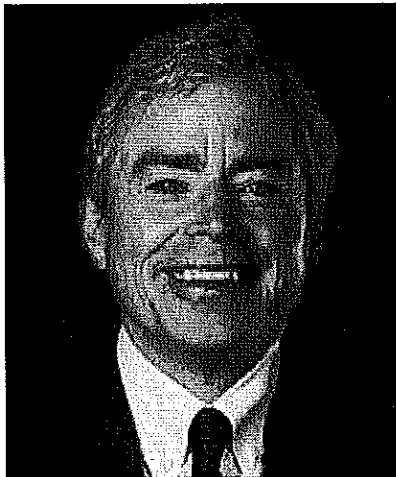


At all levels of government, lawmakers are drafting bills to chill the free speech rights of individuals including proposals that would force nonprofit organizations to reveal donor names... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Don Huffines | TX-16



Senator Don Huffines is a sixth-generation Texan. He is a first term senator in the Texas legislature representing the 16th district, which encompasses the north half of Dallas County. His main legislative interests are in the fields of law, economics, and criminal justice... [\(more\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL Sept. 8th

Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



On Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. **Please join** Public Chair Sen. Leah Vukmir, Center Director Shelby Emmett, Rep. Kim Coleman and Casey Mattox to discuss the **Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act... (RSVP)**

2017 Tax Reform Survey

It has been more than 30 years since the last time the federal tax code had a complete overhaul. As Congress considers federal tax reform, ALEC has been leading the way in providing free market solutions to the Administration. To continue this momentum, Please take a moment to take our 2017 ALEC Tax Reform survey.

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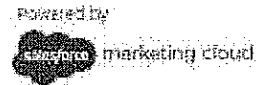
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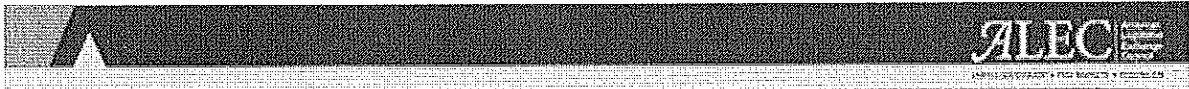


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Subject: REMINDER: Campus Free Speech Policy Call – SEPT. 8th, 11 AM EDT

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Dear Kirk,

[This is a special reminder] to join me, the Center to Protect Free Speech Director Shelby Emmett and Alliance Defending Freedom's Casey Mattox on **Friday, September 8th at 11:00 AM EDT** for a "First Fridays" conference call focused on the new ALEC model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act.

Call Details:
Sept. 8 @ 11 AM EDT
RSVP Conference Call
FORUM Act info

This new model provides a clear path forward for state legislators. The challenge we face is determining the right action that encourages rather than chills free speech on campus.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Sincerely,

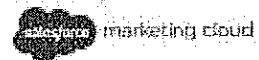
Senator Leah Vukmir
The Center to Protect Free Speech
Public Chair

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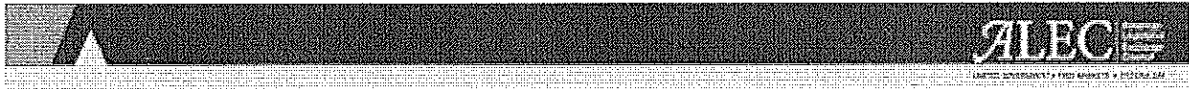
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Center to Protect Free Speech - September 5, 2017



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"First Fridays" Call September 8th - Campus Speech

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org

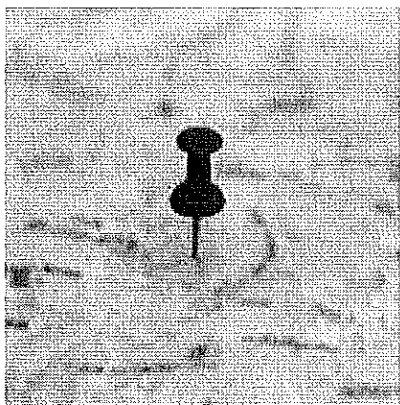


This Friday, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call on our model policy to protect free speech on college campuses. Join us to discuss the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act... **(RSVP)**

ALEC Issue Briefings

Free Speech Briefings in Your State

Contact Shelby Emmett: Semmett@alec.org



The Center to Protect Free Speech is holding free speech issue briefings at state Capitols across the United States.

If you are interested in having a free speech issue briefing in your state, click below and Shelby Emmett will reach out to you with more information.

Schedule Your Briefing.

Expert Insight

How I Brought Free Speech Reform (and Tomi Lahren) to my Campus

Giovanni Triana | *Red Alert Politics*

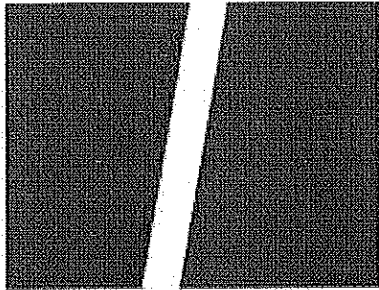


Former ALEC intern Giovanni Triana tells of his experience with speech zones and his work to reform speech codes at East Carolina University... **(more)**

Expert Opinion

Setting the Record Straight on HUFFPOST

Shelby Emmett | Read Representative Taylor's HUFFPOST Article



HUFFPOST

Center Director Shelby Emmett fired back with a corrective response to Wisconsin Rep. Taylor's HUFFPOST piece about the ALEC campus speech model policy, the Forming Robust and Open University Minds (FORUM) Act... [\(read full response\)](#)

Center Update

Shelby Emmett Hosted Campus Speech Panel

Contact Shelby Emmett: semmett@alec.org



Center Director Shelby Emmett participated in a panel at the State Policy Network's Annual Meeting. The panel discussed both current and potential reforms to protect free speech on college campuses. Other speakers included Guy Benson of Townhall Media and Robert Shibley of Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

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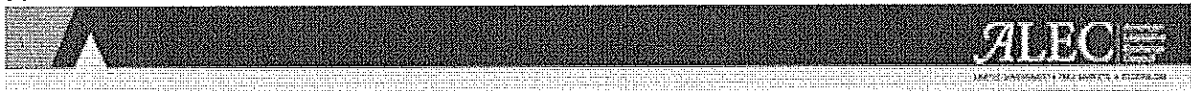
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Digital Exchange - September 7, 2017



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Connecticut's GDP Hurt by State Income Tax

Thurston Powers | *Hartford Courant*

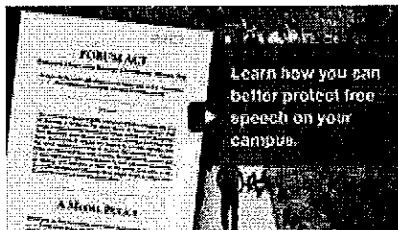


Thurston Powers, ALEC Tax Analyst, authored op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* on the state's growing deficit due to its corrective sales tax increase... [\(more\)](#)

NEW VIDEO: ALEC Policy 101

The FORUM Act - A Model Policy Proposal

Shelby Emmett | ALEC Model Policy



Shelby Emmett, Director of the Center to Protect Free Speech, talks about the new model policy, the FORUM Act. The video explains how legislators can better protect free speech on college campuses... [\(view\)](#)

ALEC Events Update

The Center to Protect Free Speech - FIRST FRIDAY'S CALL TOMORROW

Contact Shelby Emmett for more info: semmett@alec.org



Tomorrow, at 11:00 AM EDT, the Center to Protect Free Speech will hold its next conference call. Join the discuss on the **Forming Open Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act**. [Click here](#) for call-in details.

Expert Opinion

Violence Next Time

Stephen Moore | *Townhall*

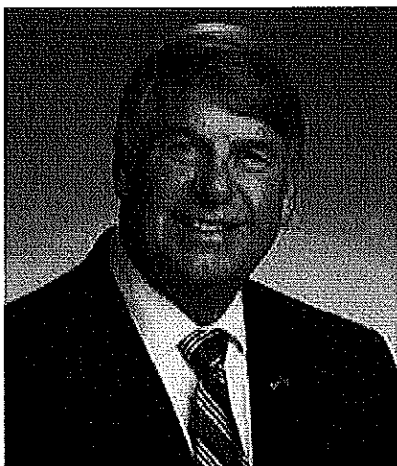


Stephen Moore, ALEC friend and contributor, recounts his first-hand experience with violent protesters disrupting the 2016 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. The *Townhall* article provides a poignant view of constructive protests v. organized violence recently seen in the news... [\(more\)](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Ed Jackson | TN-27



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks are proud to introduce Senator Ed Jackson, of Tennessee's 27th District. This weekly Q&A profile showcases legislators who embody the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. This series introduces key legislators to ALEC members. Here's an excerpt:

"At my first ALEC meeting, I was able to learn about problems, not just in Tennessee, but issues all states were struggling with." ([read Q&A](#))

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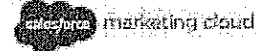
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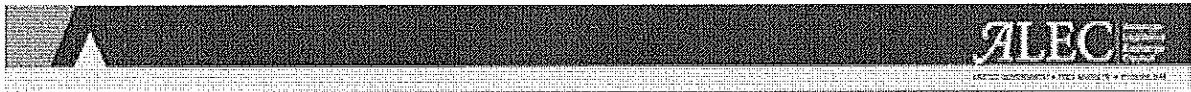
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Center for State Fiscal Reform - September 12, 2017



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Think Deficit-Neutrality, Not Revenue-Neutrality to Pass Tax Cuts

Jonathan Williams and Alfredo Ortiz | *The Hill*

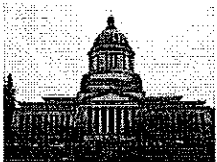


Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform, and colleague Alfredo Ortiz co-authored an op-ed discussing the messaging strategy for the upcoming debate on Tax Reform... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

Reliance on Legally Questionable Tax Threatens State Budget

Bob Williams and Erica York | *The Huffington Post*

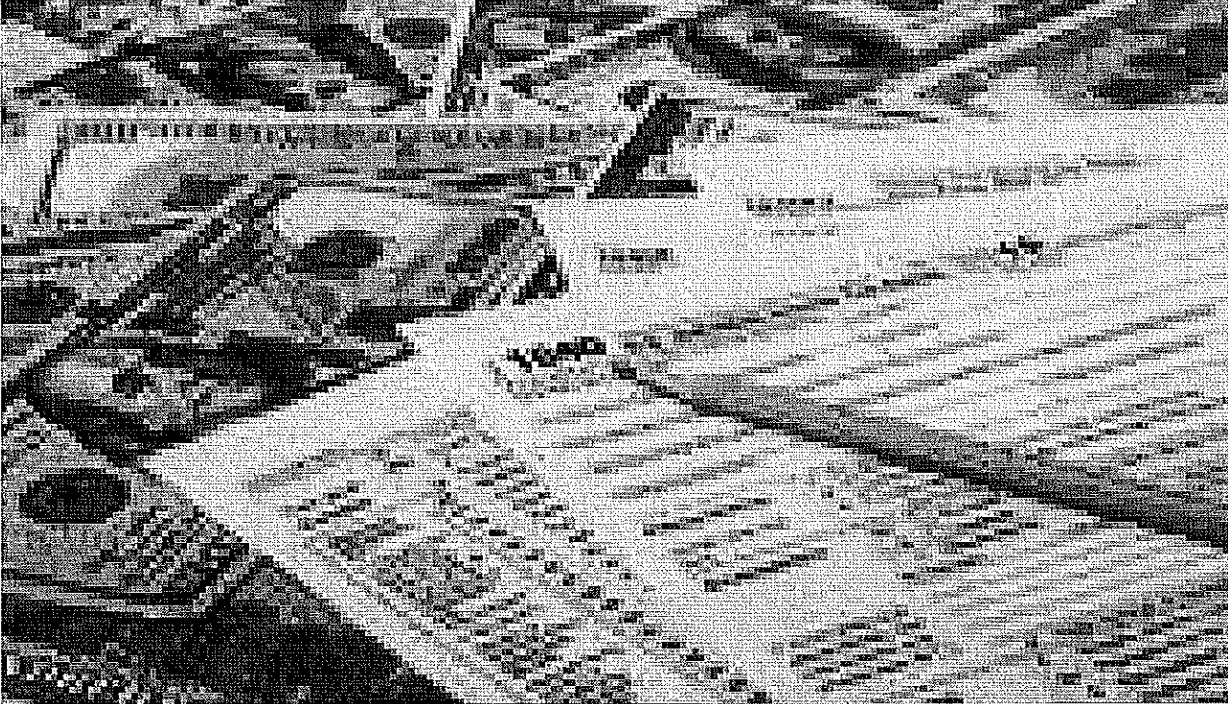


ALEC Senior Scholar, Bob Williams, discusses the vulnerability of Washington State's budget due to its reliance on a controversial tax in his regular Huffington Post column... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Connecticut Hurt By Reliance On Income Tax

Thurston Powers | *The Hartford Courant*



Thurston Powers, ALEC Tax Analyst, authored an op-ed concerning his home state's underperforming economy due to its current tax policy... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Opinion

Resist the Temptation to Tax Gross Receipts

Erica York | American Legislative Exchange Council



ALEC Tax Analyst, Erica York, provides an expert look into the economic effect of Gross Receipts Taxes as states desperately chase revenue. This tax does not belong in the modern budget toolkit... [\(more\)](#)

Interview

Jonathan Williams Sits Down with Genevieve Wood of The Daily Signal

Jonathan Williams | *The Daily Signal-Heritage Foundation*



ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform, Jonathan Williams, joins Genevieve Wood of *The Daily Signal* to discuss tax reform and state-related issues... [\(view\)](#)

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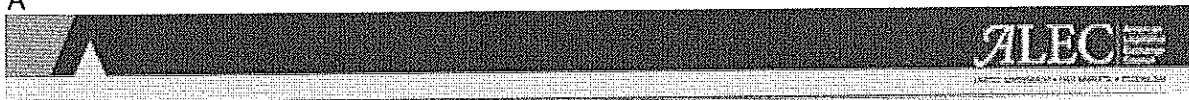
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Digital Exchange - September 14, 2017



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Model Policies Approved and Posted on ALEC.org



Following our excellent annual meeting in Denver, our Board voted to finalize our new official model policies. Take a look and share with your colleagues... [\(more\)](#)

Member Focus

Citizen, Lawmaker, Hurricane Relief Worker and ALEC Member

Jay Hamilton | American Legislative Exchange Council

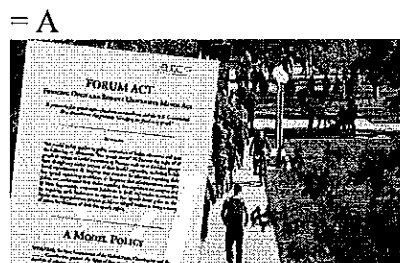


Massive relief efforts from two powerful hurricanes were lead by ALEC legislators. "Passing out food, water and ice and giving that kind of assistance to people was very rewarding," said Major Tony Dale, Texas State Guard and a Representative from... [\(more\)](#)

First Amendment Policy Alert

ALEC Legislators Endorse Campus Free Speech Model Policy

Shelby Emmett | ALEC Model Policy



As the Fall semester gets underway, The Center to Protect Free Speech released its model policy, The FORUM Act. It is the most comprehensive approach to protecting campus free speech in accordance with the First Amendment... [\(more\)](#)

Early Bird Registration

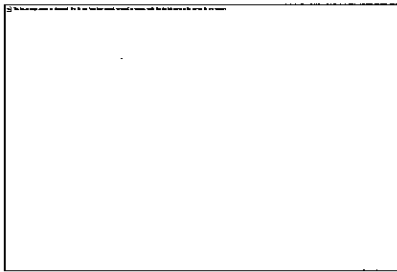
Exciting Line-Up of Speakers -- Register Now



Join policy leaders from across the country at the States & Nation Policy Summit in Nashville on Dec. 6-8. Register now to book your hotel room and save your spot... [\(register here\)](#)

Legislator of the Week Q&A

Senator Ed Jackson: Giving a Voice to Western Tennessee



Find out why Senator Ed Jackson (TN) ran for political office four years ago and what he left out of his official bio... [\(more\)](#)

Expert Insight

Ending the U.S. - South Korea FTA is a Losing Proposition

Karla Jones | Director, Federalism and International Relations Task Force



After months of invective about American's trade imbalance with South Korea, the Administration appears to be seriously considering withdrawal from the U.S.- South Korea Free Trade Agreement... [\(more\)](#)

In The News

ALEC Legislators Lead AZ Meeting to Plan Balanced Budget Convention

Bob Christie | *Fresno Bee*



State legislators from 19 states - many of them ALEC members -- convened in Phoenix to set the ground rules for a constitutional amendment calling on the federal government to balance its budget... [\(more\)](#)

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